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THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

THE French elections are over, and have apparently been attended, as we remarked last week, by no occurrences whatever calculated to seriously alarm even the most timid of politicians. The voting in the capital on Sunday and Monday was the least exciting affair imaginable. Indeed, we are told that no one would have fancied that anything unusual was going on in Paris on either of those days; and yet in each circumscription thousands of electors—a full proportion of the whole body, indeed—had deposited their suffrage-tickets in the electoral urns. Even the slight ebullitions which occurred during the period allowed for discussion—the canvassing time, as we should call it in England—appear to have been considerably exaggerated, and to have been thought a great deal more of on this side the Channel than in France itself, for we have been assured by a gentleman who was in Paris at the time that compara-

tively few people there knew that any such thing as the so-called "riots" had occurred at all.

From all this two inferences naturally suggest themselves—first, that the people of France are somewhat indifferent about the exercise of their elective privileges; or, second, that they have learned to manage these things nearly as well in France as anywhere else. The large number of votes recorded, however, clearly disproves the first hypothesis, for it appears that in the nine circumscriptions of the Department of the Seine 312,367 persons voted, out of 393,370 on the registers; and the same proportions hold good in the other departments. For instance, in the Ardennes 25,011 voted out of 31,139; in the Aube, 39,203 out of 44,216; in the Aude, 19,023 out of 22,801; in one division of the Pas de Calais, 28,717 out of 31,759; in the Seine et Marne, 27,652 out of 30,819; in the Somme, 30,650 out of 33,556; in short, in many cases 90 per cent of the

persons on the register voted, while in few instances, if any, was the proportion under 70 per cent—a far higher ratio, be it noted, than ever go to the poll even in the most keenly-contested election in England. We are thus driven to accept the second hypothesis propounded above—that the French people not only appreciate the elective privilege, but can use it with discretion, and in a generally orderly manner; from which facts, we think, another inference may fairly be deduced—namely, that a larger measure of political freedom and more frequent opportunities of performing the duties and exercising the privileges of citizenship may safely be accorded to the subjects of Napoleon III. It is true that Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, and other large towns have pronounced in a most emphatic way against the system of personal government which has been persisted in so pertinaciously for the last eighteen years; but that should be taken as a hint—and a very decided hint it is—to abandon



WELCOME OF EARL AND COUNTESS PERCY AT ALNWICK: THE PROCESSION PASSING UNDER THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH IN NARROWGATE.



the obnoxious system and to permit a larger development of popular action in national affairs, rather than as a threat against the rule of the Emperor himself—a rule which, we are persuaded, is capable of being made perfectly compatible with a more truly Constitutional mode of government and legislation than France has enjoyed since the days of Louis Philippe.

That the great bulk of the population, urban as well as rural, might be contented to live under the sway of the Third Napoleon we see no reason to doubt—so long as he remains to wield the sceptre; but the vital flaw in the existing system is, that it makes no provision for the future. Under the Emperor's rule the material prosperity of France has made marvellous progress; her internal resources have been developed and the national wealth has been increased to an extent unparalleled in any previous period of the country's history; and to these facts the people are neither insensible nor indifferent. The lower and middle classes in France, in these days, are among the most industrious, as they are certainly the most saving, people in Europe; and they are neither ignorant of, nor ungrateful for, the policy that has stimulated trade and made money more plentiful in nearly every man's pocket. In Paris, no doubt, the increase of wealth has not been an altogether unmixed good, for the price of commodities has thus been greatly enhanced of late years, and the improvements effected under the auspices of M. Haussmann have not only increased local burdens but have added enormously to the cost of house accommodation. But, on the other hand, Paris has been rendered the most beautiful and most attractive capital in Europe. Crowds of wealthy foreigners have been induced to congregate there, money has been spent freely, and the labour expended in the products of her special industries has been liberally rewarded.

Could a continuance of this state of things be guaranteed, we believe the tranquillity of France and the permanence of the Napoleonic dynasty would be secured, notwithstanding the dissatisfaction of the educated classes, which is undoubtedly both deep and widespread; but—and here comes the pinch—the whole system rests upon the Emperor's own shoulders, and the Emperor is not immortal. Napoleon III. is now in his sixty-second year, having been born April 20, 1808; and should he die—as in the course of nature he must ere many years pass away—where is the hand capable of grasping the sceptre and continuing the plan of government he has inaugurated and heretofore singly sustained? His son is as yet only an infant, the Empress is but a woman, however wise and amiable, and we know that woe usually comes to the land whose government devolves on the unaided strength and capacity of a child or a woman; the Emperor's next nearest relative is not especially popular with his countrymen; French courtiers and ministers in these times, it is to be feared, are more actuated by selfish motives, as they have mostly risen by personal intrigues, than by pure, high-souled patriotism; and the French people, as a people, have not been taught the art, by practical experience, of governing themselves in times of emergency and when suddenly freed from all restraints. In short, the plan of personal government may have hitherto answered tolerably well for the Emperor himself, and, in a certain sense, for France too; but it has left the future of the empire and of the dynasty altogether unprovided for and insecure; and hence it may happen that when Napoleon III. passes away from the scene, an echo may not be heard of the ancient cry, "The Emperor is dead; long live the Emperor!" The results of the elections, which give a large and solid majority for the Emperor and his Government, show that the present system is likely to last his time, be it long or short, notwithstanding that the Opposition may probably exhibit an enormous increase in numbers as well as in intellectual power, in determination, and even in "irreconcilability;" but the prospect is nevertheless not reassuring, and dispassionate observers may well pause, and ask what is to follow the Emperor when he shall cease to be? It is notorious that there are many factions in France, both secret and avowed, who are waiting anxiously and eagerly for opportunities to advance personal interests and to assert dynastic pretensions, as well as to realise political theories. Both branches of the house of Bourbon are ambitious to recover their lost position, and neither is devoid of partisans. Republicanism, too, is still strong in the land; and Communism has many adherents. Confusion may, probably will, follow the collapse of the existing system of purely personal government, if that system be persisted in, unmodified, until the end; and who can say but that a political deluge may not ensue? That France, as she has done before, would ultimately emerge from such a fiery ordeal with her vital powers comparatively unscathed, cannot be doubted; but the period of chaos would probably last long, and would certainly be grievous while it endured.

These considerations, we think, ought to weigh much with the present head of the Bonaparte family, and induce him to make haste to complete the work he has so long had in hand and so often declared his anxiety to finish. It should be the Emperor's desire, as it is clearly both his interest and his duty, to secure for France, as far as human foresight may, tranquillity and safety in the future as well as order in the present; and that, as it seems to us, can only be secured effectually by thoroughly identifying himself with his people—by making the interests of his dynasty and those of his country one and the same; in short, by planting in France really popular institutions, and accustoming

the French people to free political action and the practical working of thoroughly constitutional government. Let Napoleon III. frankly recognise the political manhood of his subjects, who have been kept long enough in a state of pupillage; let him accord to them the safety valves of freedom of thought, liberty of speech, and unshackled political life, and he will best subserve the interests both of his country and his dynasty. In effecting these ends, the Emperor may have to sacrifice some portion of his own personal power and prestige; but he will not be without compensation; and the demeanour of the people during the recent elections—occasional wild talk and trifling popular ebullitions notwithstanding—seems to indicate that the thing may be done with safety.

WELCOME OF EARL AND COUNTESS PERCY TO ALNWICK.

THE loyalty and devotion of the people of Alnwick are so well known throughout the whole of Northumberland that it is almost superfluous to say they are animated by feelings of the greatest delight at whatever tends to the success and advancement of the noble house to which they owe allegiance. During the celebrations which characterised the majority of Lord Warkworth, in the spring of 1867, they clearly testified their undiminished admiration and love for the successor of the gallant hero of Chevy Chase; and again were they called upon to rejoice when, upon a sharp, bright morning at the close of last December, their young lord—then enjoying the title of Earl Percy—allied himself to a charming daughter of the ducal house of Argyll. The solemnisation of the all-important ceremony took place in the district Church of St. George, near the town residence of the bride's father at Campden Hill, Kensington; but still, despite the absence of the principal personages, the dwellers on the banks of the Aln were not slow to unite in wishing them every conceivable happiness and enjoyment in the holy estate. The measures adopted by the lieges of the town were followed to a certain extent by the numerous residents beneath the shade of Warkworth's towers, by the hardy populace about the hills and moors of Rothbury, and, indeed, in almost every village and hamlet of the county. Therefore, as may easily be supposed, the interesting event was honoured by such a day of feasting, recreation, and amusement as will not soon be forgotten in the annals of Northumberland. Scarcely five months have elapsed since this outburst of cordial and general devotion, and yet the people have been once more engaged in all the excitement of a public display. No sooner was it positively known that the newly-married couple were about to visit Alnwick—for the purpose of introducing Countess Percy to her husband's ancestral home—than the greatest anxiety was manifested by the townspeople to give her a welcome of the most hearty and flattering description. Committees were appointed for the due arrangement of all business connected with the intended demonstration; and, after addresses had been suitably worded, and the best preparations promptly made, all waited in expectation for the dawning of the day on which the auspicious arrival should take place. Unfortunately, the weather for some time preceding the occasion was of the most miserable and disheartening kind, and this, no doubt, tended to exclude from the walls of the fine old town many of those elaborate triumphs of decorative art which have been so conspicuous at most previous fêtes, and accounted for the general scantiness of bunting shown in the streets at an early hour on the morning of the 19th inst. The first streaks of day dawned through a dull, murky, and leaden-coloured sky, and as a nasty drizzling rain had fallen during the whole of the preceding night, the prospect of a pleasant holiday was by no means cheering; but, notwithstanding this portentous commencement, the atmosphere began to assume a brighter aspect about ten o'clock—the gloom eventually giving place to a glorious sunshine—and nature then seemed gay and fresher for her long abutions. This change of course wrought wonders in the appearance of the town. Flags and banners were instantly fluttering in the breeze from most windows in the principal streets; while the triumphal arches had imparted to them the touches requisite to put a proper finish upon the work. The first of these was erected across the south road, near the conspicuous column erected by the tenantry, and its circular span and pointed summit formed an exceedingly attractive feature in the landscape. It was formed entirely of laurel, fir, and other evergreens, and bore on the face first seen by the expected couple the words "Dinna forget the welcome to Alnwick;" while above it was conspicuously placed the Argyll shield, and higher still the bear's-head crest of that family. Near the rise of the span were also hoisted two circular boards with the crests of the Campbells and Percys, and these had proudly unfurled above them the banner of St. George. A second arch spanned that end of Narrowgate nearest to the Lion Bridge, and was constructed by Mr. Robertson in a most complete and effective manner. The Gothic style of architecture was adopted by the designer, whose prevailing notion seemed to have been to render it as nearly approximating to a regularly built stone structure as possible; while it was also intended to convey an idea of antiquity by the sprigs of ivy which were carefully trained to nearly encompass the whole surface. Conspicuously placed beneath the Percy shield and lion, and between the crests of the allied families, was a beautifully-designed scroll, containing the affectionate sentence, "Welcome to the bride," and the initials "E." and "H.;" but on the opposite side the lettering was changed to the pretty general wish for "Long life to Earl and Countess Percy." From the summit of the whole dangled a splendid silk union-jack, and hence the combined effect constituted a not unimportant item in the ornamentation which graced that portion of the town. Several of the principal shopkeepers, too, had exercised a tolerable amount of skill in the arrangement of their flags, and not a little ingenuity in the designing and execution of the emblems and mottoes with which they were bedecked. One of the most pleasing of these contained the words, "Welcome, Edith," and in addition had the fetterlock and crescent of the Percy encircled by the thistle of Scotland; while another, in gilt characters on a blue ground, revealed the sentence, "Welcome, daughter of Argyll." Indeed, on all hands did these sheets of bunting waft out their foils to the breeze, and helped in no slight degree to enhance the beauty of the whole display. At the approach of noon the bustle and commotion amongst the intending holiday-seekers were very materially increased. The shops were closed, and then, according to arrangement, the tenantry and various public bodies took up positions at the south gate in readiness for the formation of the procession which it was understood would precede the Earl's carriage into the town.

In the mean time, however, in consequence of a knowledge that the Earl and Countess would drive from Bilton Junction, the neighbourhood of that little place was the scene of intense excitement for at least an hour prior to the time at which the train was expected. In accordance with previous arrangements, about 250 tenants on the Northumberland estates were present for the purpose of pronouncing a formal welcome to their future landlord; while a detachment of the Percy Artillery, commanded by Captain Tait, attended as an escort to the young couple. On the bridge, the roadsides, and all available sites from which a view of the railway could be obtained, the anxious spectators pushed and crowded persistently for a vantage point; and as the genial rays of the sun then beamed from a cloudless sky, the grouping presented a picture of the most animated and varied character. It soon transpired that the noble pair—who had principally sojourned at Aldbury Park since their marriage—had travelled from Northumberland House to York on the previous day, and, as a consequence, that they must resume their journey northward by

the express leaving the latter city at nine o'clock. This train was due at 12.40, and as the engine dragged the carriages alongside the platform at the appointed time, a round of deafening cheers burst from the lips of the assembled thousands. The Earl instantly alighted, and, after assisting his bride to the platform, presented her to Mr. Snowball and several other gentlemen. Her Ladyship—who is exceedingly prepossessing in appearance, and looked in the enjoyment of perfect health—wore a costly dress of lavender-coloured silk, very tastefully trimmed with lace, while a bouquet of orange-blossom and myrtle surmounted a bonnet of white lace. In her hand she carried a magnificent parachute, the stem and ring of which were abundantly set in jewellery, and she seemed by her pleasant smile to win the hearty goodwill of all beholders. The Earl also appeared well and robust, and as he conducted Lady Edith to the carriage containing the Duchess of Argyll and her sisters, he had again and again to raise his hat in acknowledging the plaudits with which he was greeted. The young people seated themselves in an open carriage drawn by four handsome bay horses, and, under the escort of the artillerymen, followed the mounted tenantry at a rapid pace towards Alnwick. Along the whole of the route to the village of Lesbury the road was densely thronged with spectators; while the villagers themselves had thrown up a very neat triumphal arch over the toll-bar, with the initials "H. G." and "E. P." at the sides of the very expressive word "Welcome." Wishes for the "happiness of the Earl and Countess" were expressed in many forms during the length of the little hamlet, and the rustic occupants of the well-arranged garden spaces also showered blessings after the carriage as it passed. Away dashed the gay and sprightly company between hedges radiant with the hues of the freshest and richest verdure; but on breasting the hill overlooking the finely-wooded district of Alnwick, the speed was slightly slackened in order that the grand panorama might be more effectually enjoyed. Amongst the most prominent objects in the landscape were the towers and embattlements of the grand old castle, the lion of the tenantry column, and the tall, broad steeple of St. Michael's Church—all pleasing features at any time; but when seen under the glare of a noontday sun and brought into bold relief by the black stretch of moorland in the rear, the view is rendered still more impressive and enchanting. A ride down a gentle incline, beneath trees thickly clad with foliage, and then the Countess really experienced the heartiness of the welcome accorded to her. Thousands of the townspeople were congregated in the vicinity of the south gate; and as the carriage was brought to a standstill they pressed forward on all sides to shower their most cordial congratulations upon the happy pair; while the waving of hats and handkerchiefs by persons situated in the balconies and gardens adjoining scarcely ever ceased during the whole time that the carriage or its occupants were in sight.

Several congratulatory addresses were presented to the Earl and Countess at this point; and in the evening banquets and other entertainments were held in honour of the occasion.

THE LIFE-BOATS ON THE IRISH COAST.—Captain David Robertson, R.N., the assistant inspector of life-boats to the National Life-boat Institution, has during the past two months been engaged in inspecting the twenty-eight life-boats of the society on the Irish coast. Without a single exception, he found the boats in admirable order, the crews expressing the utmost confidence in them, and the local committees manifesting everywhere considerable zeal in the management of the life-boat stations. It may be stated that the institution has expended upwards of £15,000 on the twenty-eight life-boat establishments, and that the support of the Irish boats involves an annual expenditure of about £1400, which is partly met by the parent society, in London, and partly by local subscriptions.

NEW PARK AT HAMPSTEAD.—A plan has been set on foot which, in consequence of the death of Sir Thomas Wilson, the late lord of the manor of Hampstead, has a chance of coming to maturity, by which, if carried into effect, the inhabitants of Marylebone, Kilburn, Belsize, Camden Town, Haverstock-hill, and St. John's-wood will reap very great advantages. It was proposed in a vestry meeting at Hampstead, the other day, to take on lease, at a moderate rental, with option of purchase, an area of between fifty and sixty acres in the neighbourhood of Finchley-road. It is expected that the new lord of the manor, Sir John Maryon Wilson, will not be indisposed to meet the wishes of the inhabitants of Hampstead thus far, especially if, as is very probable, the parish of Marylebone should unite with that of Hampstead, and both with the Metropolitan Board of Works, in forwarding the success of the scheme.

THE CREW OF THE TORNADO.—The British Minister at Madrid, having applied to the Spanish Government in April with a view to ascertain their disposition in regard to compensating the crew of the Tornado and the widow of John M'Pherson, received the following memorandum:—"Inasmuch as it is a generally admitted principle that once a vessel is declared to be good prize neither the crew nor the owners can lay claim to any kind of indemnity, and inasmuch as the capture of the Tornado can be qualified as such, the detention of the crew was not, as erroneously supposed in one of the communications of the British Government, owing to the necessity of taking their evidence, but to the fact of some of the men being actually engaged in the military service of Chili, while all were acting in open hostility to Spain. They were consequently prisoners of war, and all claim to indemnity becomes invalid. Out of consideration for England, most of the crew being British subjects, the Spanish Government set the men at liberty. With regard to Mr. John M'Pherson, the results of the trial—and, indeed, his own evidence—show that he was a first-class engineer in the Chilean navy, and as such charged with the supervision of the vessels General O'Higgins and Chacabuco, which were being built in England, and that he embarked on board the Tornado as third mate. There can be no doubt that M'Pherson, according to international law, was rightly considered in the light of a prisoner of war; and his detention, therefore, can give him no claim to indemnity, more especially as the Spanish Government, notwithstanding the fact of M'Pherson being an enemy whose services might prove seriously prejudicial to the country and the Government, allowed him, out of deference to her Majesty's Minister, to leave Seville, where he had been detained on parole, M'Pherson, as well as his comrades, receiving the maintenance corresponding to their rank. It should be observed that, with respect to the treatment which the prisoners received subsequently to the capture of the Tornado, their own evidence, which exists in the Foreign Office, as well as the evidence of her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, proves that on board the Tornado they were treated in the same manner as the Spanish crew, and that on shore they experienced every kind of consideration." Subsequently, on May 9, Sir J. Crampton received a further communication from the Spanish Government, in which they state that they decline to try the case anew before a special tribunal, and maintain the former decision as definitive.

LADIES' SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—APPEAL FOR PARK PARTIES.—The Committee of the Ladies' Sanitary Association have sent out to the parks, for fresh air and healthful recreation, during the last eight seasons, 2119 parties of the poorest children in London, from the ragged schools, mews, &c., providing toys, music, slices of bread, teas, dinners, and even clothes, where the need was great; paying guides, who are generally the masters and mistresses of the schools, to conduct the children to the parks, and keep them there three or four hours, twice in each week during the summer months, in each year. Thus 152,710 poor children have been strengthened, instructed, and made happier. In 1861, 6,000 children were sent out with balls, kites, and skipping-ropes, at a cost of £16 7s. In 1862, 28,263 children with toys, at a cost of £61 8s. In 1863, 12,885 children were sent out, with a slice of bread (to be eaten in the park) to each child whose parents were too poor to supply a slice, at a cost of £18 7s. In 1864, 29,035 children were sent out with bread, at a cost of £47 17s. In 1865, 15,669 children, at a cost of £27 8s. 2d. In 1866, 12,960 children, with bread and dinners, at a cost of £25 4s. In 1867, 34,665 children with bread, and music instead of toys, at a cost of £28 13s. 11d. This year the dinners were arranged, and £143 13s. 6d. was spent by the Ladies' Sanitary Association in providing dinners. This year also £25 was spent in clothing for the poor children. In 1868, 12,243 children were sent out, and tea, treat, and music given to 128 children, at a cost of £21 13s. 7d. This year 4666 dinners and nearly 300 garments were given to the children. Through these parties several committees of the schools have arranged to send out their own park parties, and to provide dinners for their children from the funds they collect in their own localities; and many kind friends have given teas to parties of hungry-looking children. Hundreds of children have been admitted free to the Zoological Gardens. Vans filled with infants have been taken to Kensington Gardens, and fed with buns and milk; and the Destitute Children's Dinner Society, which must have supplied at least two hundred thousand dinners to the children who are sent out into the parks, owes its origin to the want ascertained and the sympathy created through these park parties. Thousands of geraniums and other flowering plants have been given to the children, at the close of the season, from the parks, and hundreds of these plants have been reared through the winter in the houses and school-rooms of the poor, and have been presented as the flower shows the following year. The committee of the association have this year to make an earnest appeal to the friends of the poor, in order that these parties of children may be able to continue these visits to the parks. Annual subscriptions, or donations, may be sent to Miss E. S. Griffiths, Sec., Office, 8, Pont-street, Belgrave-square, S.W.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The results of 290 elections were known on Wednesday, and of the deputies elected forty-one have never before had seats in the Corps Législatif. The Opposition have gained six and lost three seats. Fresh ballots will be necessary in fifty-nine cases, many of which are expected to result in the return of Opposition deputies. The number of Opposition candidates elected, or re-elected, so far as known, amounts to twenty-eight. Some disturbances have occurred in the departments in connection with the elections. At Amiens, on Tuesday evening, a body of workmen, numbering 1800, broke the windows of the manufactory of M. Cosserat, the deputy, who has been re-elected. They also destroyed the lamp-posts in the public streets, but the gendarmes succeeded in restoring order. At St. Etienne, where M. Dorian, candidate of the Democracy, has been returned, a numerous band, carrying a red flag, walked through the streets on Monday evening, shouting, "Long live the Reds!" "Down with the Jesuits!" and singing the "Marseillaise." They proceeded to the Seminary of the Jesuits, where they tore down the bars of the windows on the ground floor, sacked the schools, and began to set fire to the porter's lodge. During the tumult the Superior of the Jesuits was struck on the head with a stick. The rioters also broke the windows of the Capuchin Chapel, the disturbances lasting the whole of the night, and the crowd only dispersed when the Prefect, the Mayor, and the Public Prosecutor, supported by the commander of the gendarmes at the head of a picket of infantry, arrived on the spot. Several arrests were made, and the rioters tried to release a prisoner, but did not succeed. A sergeant de ville was slightly wounded. At Angers several groups of people congregated in front of the Townhall and the Préfecture, singing the "Marseillaise." Seventeen persons were arrested. Several arrests have also been made at Lille, where numbers of persons took part in a riotous demonstration, and broke the windows of the central police-station. The shutters of the printing-office of the *Bien Public*, a newspaper published at Dijon, were broken by rioters on Monday evening. Three persons were taken into custody. At Toulouse large crowds assembled in the Place of the Capitole, in front of the barracks. Stones were thrown at the military. One officer and a soldier were struck. Thirty arrests were made.

SPAIN.

The long debate in the Spanish Constituent Cortes on the two clauses, 32 and 33, relating to the form of government, was brought to a close last week, and both clauses, which establish monarchy as the form of government, were adopted—clause 32 by acclamation and clause 33 by 214 votes against 71. In Tuesday's sitting the Cortes resumed the discussion on the remaining clauses of the Constitution. Signor Castelar criticised adversely the colonial clauses, and said, alluding to Cuba, "If Spain had followed the example given by England in her dealings with Canada, and granted the liberties which the colonies claim for themselves, it would have successfully prevented the outbreak of an insurrection." Marshal Serrano replied that General Dulce had granted the liberties required, but that party passions had blinded the inhabitants to the intentions of Government. The insurrection, as regards its physical strength, was almost suppressed, and 600 filibusters had lately been defeated; nevertheless, the moral disorder was likely to disappear more slowly. As soon as the normal state of things should be re-established the Government would, in conjunction with the Cuban deputies, suppress slavery by a well-considered measure, and proceed with inexorable severity against all persons engaged in the slave trade. In Wednesday's sitting the Cortes closed the discussion on the Constitution by the adoption of the remaining clauses.

The Republicans of the four provinces of Andalusia, Estremadura, Alicante, and Murcia, intend to hold a meeting on the 4th inst., when they will sign a Federal pact.

It is currently reported in Lisbon that Prince Augustus, brother to the reigning King of Portugal, has been offered the crown of Spain, and that he will marry the eldest daughter of the Duke of Montpensier. Prince Augustus was born in 1847.

ITALY.

While the Austrian Consul at Leghorn was walking with General Grenneville in that city on Monday night he was attacked by two men and killed. The General was also wounded. It is supposed that the Consul was murdered in mistake, the real object of the assassins being to kill General Grenneville from motives of personal vengeance. They have not been captured.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies General Menabrea announced that Signor de Filippo, Minister of Justice and Public Worship, had tendered his resignation, and that the portfolio had been accepted by Senator Pironti, whom he introduced to the House.

RUSSIA.

At a banquet given on Monday, at St. Petersburg, to General von Kaufmann, Governor-General of Turkestan, the General declared that for Russia the period of conquest in Central Asia was at an end, and that a time of peace had now commenced. The war with Bokhara was not in contradiction with this view, as it was merely a war of self-defence.

SIGNOR MAZZINI'S DEFENCE.

THE *Lugano Tribune* publishes a manifesto from Joseph Mazzini. We subjoin the principal portions of this interesting document:—

"TO MY ENEMIES.

"I write to you, not because I intend, nor do you expect it from me, to defend myself from your accusations, or to explain my conduct. Your accusations honour me, and I recognise no right in you over my conduct.

"I write to declare to my country that the recent accusations made against me in your journals prove you to be at once immoral, cowardly, and stupid. Immoral, because you utter then knowing them to be false; cowardly, because you, masters of the constituted authorities, of vast financial means, of an army which you say is devoted to you, and of a press which is devoted to you—yet employ against us the disloyal weapons of spies and calumny, thus proving your impotence with other means; and stupid, because you imagine the country which you have daily deceived throughout long years will credulously accept your accusations, and believe me and my friends to be men capable of hiring assassins, or promoting violation of property and pillage.

"The country remembers that ever since the year 1832, when the Government of your King's father spread rumours in the barracks of poison prepared for the garrison—such calumnies have always been revived at every threat of insurrection, or every fit of terror brought upon you by the consciousness of your own misdeeds; and that these calumnies have always shortly afterwards been proved to have been devised for the purpose of exciting the prejudices of some class of citizens against your adversaries.

"The country—I do not mean the few hundred intriguers who serve you for lucre's sake to-day, as they would serve us to-morrow could we accept such, but the millions of worthy citizens who, though they may at times be misled, are neither calumniators nor corrupt—the country knows you, and is beginning to know us. These millions have seen you retire from power swollen with riches, and have seen us leave it poorer than before. They have heard of Manin turned schoolmaster in exile; of the Roman General Roselli, living the life of a poor Popolano for years in silent dignity; of the modest existence of Carlo Cattaneo, in Lugano; and of Gustavo Modena, resigned to sell flour and cheese in Brussels. They have heard what numbers of our party have died in poverty in exile; and they have understood that if we, like all mankind, are liable to intellectual error, we have neither vices nor

base envy to satisfy at the expense of the property of others or of our country.

"They have heard the glorious tradition of our Republican martyrs, all of whom, from the noble Neapolitans of 1799 down to Carlo Pisacane and Rosolino Pilo, died—whether in battle or on the scaffold, with a smile of an uncontaminated conscience on their lips, and the serene ray of hope that their blood might advance their country's future upon their brow. They have heard of the grey-haired and miserable Giuseppe Petroni—whom you have abandoned in his Papal prison because he is a Republican and my friend—and of his twice-repeated glorious refusal to escape, first, to me, when I offered to contrive his flight, because he would not forsake his fellow-prisoners; and, again, to the satellites of the Pope, because, after fifteen years of suffering, they offered him his liberty on degrading conditions; and they fully understand that, while the least unworthy among you are men of an opinion or a dynastic interest, and incapable either of martyrdom or sacrifice, we are men of a faith, purified in soul by it, and incapable of crimes inconsistent with it.

"Many Italians look beyond the Alps, and view in Republican Switzerland a spectacle of simplicity and virtue, of enduring civil concord, of property inviolate and widely diffused. Many pass the sea to find the Republican United States of America full of redundant increasing life, to see labour respected and universal education nearly universal, the dignity of free men in all; and, where needed, such a capacity of sacrifice, both in arms and money, as could never even be dreamed of in any of your monarchies; and they have become convinced that Republican institutions signify law omnipotent; public offices bestowed on merit and virtue; moral equality promoted by equality of education; the Government the initiator of progress; wealth founded on labour; free and vigilant concurrence of all the citizens in all matters of import to the country, and consequent impossibility of violent revolutions; while, if they turn their eyes upon the monarchies, they see a spectacle of arbitrary government; of the public offices bestowed on the privileged by wealth or birth; corruption disseminated from above; of labour impeded at every step, both in production and circulation; ignorance fostered—because an instrument of servitude—among the masses; arms and the franchise denied to the majority, and consequently periodical revolutions and constant attempts at insurrection, fatal to peace, industry, and commerce, but inevitable when both duties and rights are systematically denied.

"Finally, some thousands of those to whom you thus lie have read what I and my Republican friends have written during now five-and-thirty years; and have learned from our writings that we have always openly combated every form of terror erected into a system; all vengeance taken for the past, and every act calculated to excite one class of citizens against another; that, risking for truth's sake the disapproval and anger of some of our nearest friends, we have strongly repudiated every system of communism, violent spoliation, or violation either of compact entered into by the nation or of individual rights legitimately acquired; that we have invariably preached to our fellow-citizens—you can never better the condition of your country unless you render yourselves better, more virtuous, and more just than those you overthrow.

"However, when one of your Ministers—whom I would recommend to learn his country's language before he governs her—ungrammatically deplores in Parliament 'that men that dare to vituperate the name of liberty by basing themselves her champion may give occasion for iniquitous attempts that, had they been followed by the premeditated effect, would have led to truly assassin-like consequences;' and adds, speaking of the discovery of concealed weapons, that 'it is needless to say that these arms were directed against worthy men;' finally, when he attributes to the 'arrests' made, the power to 'demonstrate that the conspiracy was principally directed against the army,' the people do but laugh at his senseless affirmations and absurd hypotheses, as well as at the flagrant contradiction of declaring the conspiracy directed against an army which you accuse us of endeavouring by every means in our power to seduce.

"But when the Italians hear you traduce Sicily in the eyes of Europe as capable of dispatching 200 assassins (*accottellatori*) to a city in Northern Italy, they turn from you with disgust to find you do not shrink from calumniating your native land; and judge from your use of such weapons that all others fail you; that you are henceforward victims devoted to the goddess Fear; that you are, and know you are, lost. We need not such arms as these to prove you both immoral and incapable.

"I—since your persistence in attributing to me anything that alarms you compels me to speak of myself—I am, and shall be while I live, your irreconcilable enemy. You have crucified the honour of my country in the sight of the nations, and done all that in you lay to cause the future assigned to her by God to recede—a future the sole provision of which was enough to make me consecrate to it heart, life, and soul, deeming every possible sacrifice largely repaid. But neither the immense love I bear to Italy, nor the deep anger I feel towards all who traduce, corrupt, or mislead her, has ever made me employ disloyal weapons against you, stoop to accusations in which I did not fully believe, or deny you that liberty of experiment which you invoked with such hypocritical promises some years back. When in 1848 you solemnly declared that the monarchy took the field against Austria in order to fulfil a duty towards Italy, and pledged yourselves to the country to leave her arbitress of her own fate at the conclusion of the war; when in 1859 and 1866 you declared through the lips of your dictators, 'the monarchy is possessed of an army, treasure, and long-organised resources, it can and will give you all you desire—Rome, the Alps, external independence, and internal liberty—at less cost and with greater certainty of success than you,' I, incredulous myself, but reverent to the opinion of the country which trusted in you, and induced by an innate love of justice to give you the means of fulfilling your promises, was silent as to the Republic, did my best to aid your war and to further your annexation of the centre and the south, abstained from all secret work, from all that you could call conspiracy, waited till time should make known your intentions, and promised you that if ever I should feel compelled to resume my former course I would give you warning.

"Then, towards the close of 1866, I once more raised that Republican banner which bears within its folds the destinies of Italy; and, in the name of the believers in that banner, published a manifesto, saying to you, 'You will have war—then be it war.'

"Which of us is disloyal? We who awaited patiently till every possible means of concord had been exhausted, and when every experiment had been tried, and every hope betrayed, openly separated ourselves from you; or you, who trod in the blood of our martyrs, by which the ground was prepared, and availed yourselves of our silence and the illusions of a whole people who trusted your promises, to seat yourselves in powerful and armed dominion upon the neck of Italy, and say to her, 'We belong, not to you, but to the dynasty; and to us, 'You are robbers and assassins.'

"You had the prestige of a name—Rome—sacred among the people, the historic records of whose two epochs of civilisation were a pledge of the world's respect and love; and you have, while protesting the contrary, annihilated that prestige, abandoned Rome to the Papal phantom, and silently submitted to be told by a French Minister that she should never be yours.

"Our long apostolate, and the blood and sacrifices of our party, had created for you and implanted in the very heart of the multitude such a worship of unity as is in itself a gigantic force, a strong bond of love and pledge of a common mission; and you, by dint of misgovernment, by halting half way on your course, have embittered the miserable commencement of unity we possess, and given birth to a spirit of federalism which would—should it endure—be fatal to our country. You had a splendid historical tradition, pointing out to you the method by which to render unity permanent, through the development of the two inseparable elements of Italian life—the nation and the commune; and you, by restricting the suffrage, and by the administrative tyranny of

prefects, delegates and carabinieri, have crushed all activity in our communes, even as by denying it a national pact, and compressing it within the limits of a *statuto* framed before unity was even begun, and dictated in a moment of terror by the King who betrayed Milan—you have stifled the national life.

"I would not wear out the last uncertain remnant of life left to me for a question merely political, to hasten by a few years or months the foundation of republican institutions. The Republic is inevitable in Italy within a brief period, and I would leave it to time and your errors to do the work for us. But though a question of liberty or finance may be safely left to the slow development of progressive ideas, a question of honour may not. Dishonour is to a people a gangrene, which, if not fought against in time, is fatal to their national life. A people which, though able to do otherwise, resigns itself to foreign insult, which, though strong enough to be free and master of its own destiny, consents to drag along in a semblance of freedom so far as others allow, and no further, is lost—it abdicates its power and its future.

"We will publish and republish, through the press, open or clandestine, according to your persecutions, these words, which my friend Lamennais—one of the holiest of our party too little remembered amongst us—addressed to the people shortly before his death:—'Know this. Whenever in extremity of suffering you determine to win back the rights of which your oppressors have despoiled you, they will revile you as disturbers of order, and strive to defame you as rebels. Rebels against whom? There is no rebellion possible save against the true Sovereign, the people; and how can the people rebel against the people? The rebels are those who create iniquitous privileges for themselves, to the injury of the people; who impose their dominion upon them by force of fraud; and when the people overthrow that dominion they do not disturb order; they do God's work, and execute his ever just will.'

"Is the people with you? Have you besides your vast organised forces and the prestige—so powerful over most minds—of a long past, the majority of the country, of the governed, in your favour? Why, then, calumniate us? Why shrink in anger from the apostolate of our ideas? Grant us freedom in that apostolate; grant us the press free from sequestration; grant us liberty of association, whatever the political programme; grant us individual liberty, unhampered by domiciliary visits, preventive imprisonment, and violation of correspondence; grant me, who write these lines, free transit from city to city, and the right to convene meetings, in order to explain my Republican doctrine to all who wish to hear me. We will then promise you to abstain from all secret organisation, from all preparation for what you call rebellion, but what would, in fact, be the restoration to the people, for the fulfilment of this national revolution, of that initiative which you have interrupted and suppressed.

"Why do you not dare to do as England does, and admit the inviolability of thought? Why will you confiscate this writing of mine? Why do you make it a crime in your soldiers to read our newspapers? Why do you ask Switzerland to banish me? Has Switzerland ever asked you to banish any son of hers, for fear of a Monarchical Apostolate?

"No, you will do none of these things. You could not if you would. You are not a national Government. You rule solely through force. Do so, so long as that force sustains you. But complain not if, meeting apostolate with apostolate, the day comes when—in the name of Rome betrayed, of our Italian honour violated, our independence cast at the foot of the foreigner, our provinces bartered away, our country's finance ruined, our army shamed and degraded, our national life deprived of all legal expression or pact—we oppose force by force.

"You are not a national Government in Italy. Herein lies your sentence; the secret of the actual state of things and our eternal right.

"The birth and growth of national life in Italy were Republican, and gave origin to our communes before the days of Rome. Our national life was Republican, and creator of the idea of unity in Rome before the Empire; and Republican in its new birth and growth in our cities of the Middle Ages, revealing the Italian Mission in Europe, and extending the link of moral unity from people to people through religion, art, industry, and commerce. All our great records are Republican; and nearly all our great men, whether of heart or intellect, were Republicans. The tendencies and customs of our civil life, and of our dawning social institutions, are Republican. Italy has had patriots, but no patriots; condottieri, merchant rulers who had raised themselves above their fellow-citizens by arms or wealth, but not an aristocracy similar to those of other European lands; compact, united, guided by universally accepted leaders, and directed by a single political aim.

"These things I have felt bound to declare to you, interpreter of your fate, so that you may know what I do believe, and how I despise your accusations. I and my best friends deliberately opposed the immature attempt which has lately filled you with such terror; but I do not mean by this to defend myself to you. So soon as I shall see reason to think I can help your overthrow I shall consider it my duty, as an Italian, to do so; and I shall do so with a conscience both calm and glad. Adieu!

"May, 1869."

"JOSEPH MAZZINI."

A COACHMAKER OF MILAN has completed a magnificent state carriage ordered by the King of Italy and destined to be sent as a present to the Sultan.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—A great Orange demonstration against the Church Bill was held in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Belfast, on Saturday, under the presidency of Mr. Johnston, M.P., of Ballykillybeg. Some 40,000 persons were present. A number of resolutions were passed, among them one "asserting and maintaining the right of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to a continuance of the Regium Donum and other endowments which it had heretofore received." A petition to the Queen and one to the House of Lords, praying for the rejection of the measure, were also agreed on. The Yorkshire Church Institution will hold a meeting at Leeds on Saturday next, under the presidency of Mr. W. S. Stanhope, to protest against the bill.

ROUTES TO INDIA.

AN interesting report has been made by Captain Tyler, of the Board of Trade, on the facilities afforded for communication with the East by the railway of the Brenner Pass and the harbour of Brindisi, which he has recently re-inspected. He describes at length the improvements made in the harbour, and says:—"While it is true that the excavations have not been pushed forward during the last three years with much energy, it must be admitted, on the other hand, that the Italian Government have not received, in consequence of the want of more regular and rapid communication with Brindisi, much encouragement to induce them, in the straitened condition of their finances, to spend more money in a shorter time. One of the principal objects which they have in view in improving this harbour is to prepare it for the passage of an Indian mail, and thus to obtain its recognition as a point of departure from Europe for the East; and they have done much in that direction, all the various requirements indicated in my report of 1866, with the exception of a dock, having been taken in hand or having made more or less progress. . . . These arrangements, and the works generally remaining to be completed, would, no doubt, be expedited if there were any immediate prospect of the employment of the harbour for the regular Indian mail-steamer, and the proposed dock would in that case be very necessary. The works of the Suez Canal have of late made so much progress that the hope may now, perhaps, be indulged of seeing it prepared at no very distant date for the passage of ocean steamers, and, in that event, of contemplating the running of steamers direct from Brindisi to Bombay, by which the inconvenience and expense for mails and passengers of transshipment on each side of the isthmus would be avoided." Captain Tyler took the opportunity of visiting the port of Monopoli, forty-four miles from Brindisi, and comes to the conclusion that, considering all the circumstances, Monopoli cannot be considered as a rival port with Brindisi for the

accommodation of steamers of a large class, and for the main purposes of Eastern communication, though it will have, when the contemplated works are carried out, great advantages for the traffic and commerce of the district, as it has already for local residence. He next describes the railway journey, and the construction of the line and carriages. The Brenner Railway, he remarks, "is of the most interesting character. It is 16.61 Austrian, or about 76 English miles in length, and it rises from a height of 829½ Austrian feet above the sea, at Botzen, to 1793 at Brixen, and 4325 at the summit of the pass, descending again to a height of 1831.46 ft. above the sea at the Innsprück station. The steepest gradient on the ascent from Botzen to Brenner is 22.5 per 1000, or 1 in 44.4; but there is an almost continuous descent from Brenner to Innsprück of 1 in 40. The sharpest curves have radii of 900 ft., against 600 ft. for the Sömmering Pass. The longest bridge, over the Eisack, near Mauls, between Freienfeld and Grassi, has a span of 130 ft. The whole of the works have been constructed in the

most substantial manner, and for a double line of rails, which will be laid when the traffic is sufficient to require them. . . . For the passenger traffic six-wheel coupled engines are used, with wheels 4 ft. in diameter, with 18 in. cylinders and 24 in. of stroke, and weighing forty tons each. They take ninety tons of load up 1 in 40. The wrought-iron break-blocks on their tenders are found to lose a tenth of a pound for every 200 Austrian miles run. The system of continuous brakes on the carriages, which has been found to answer so well on some of the railways of this country, has not yet been adopted on the Brenner Railway, the ordinary practice being to employ separate brakes on half the vehicles in each passenger train. But the guards and brakemen can each apply two brakes, the brake-vehicles being placed with their cabs and brake-handles next to each other. The running speed, ascending and descending, is about twenty-seven kilometres per hour, and the drivers are permitted, when they are behind time, to increase their speed by one fifth in

ascending, and by one tenth in descending. . . . This railway across the Alps, though it passes over so great an elevation, and through so difficult and romantic a district, has, thanks to the skill of the engineer, nothing exceptional about it to prevent it from being worked much in the same way, and with the same means and appliances, as any other railway. The steepest gradients, 1 in 40, are not more severe than those on the Sömmering Pass, over the Ghauts for the Great Indian Peninsular Railway, or on the Giovi incline in Italy, and are not indeed so severe as some which are constantly worked with heavy traffic in this country, such as the line between Dowlais and Brecon, with 6½ miles of 1 in 39, the Lickey incline of 1 in 37 near Bromsgrove, or the Folkestone Harbour incline of 1 in 30, or the Oldham incline of 1 in 27." The time from London to Alexandria is put at 150 hours. It is proposed to have carriages with accommodation for sleeping, for refreshments, for through circulation in the carriages, and for all things necessary on the journey. Captain Tyler adds:—"The routes via



THE CAPTURE OF THE STANDARD: AN INCIDENT OF THE FIGHT AT NACHOD IN 1866.

Marseilles, via the Mont Cenis, and via the Brenner may appear to be rivals to one another, and, as regards the two latter, for a through traffic yet to be increased or even created. But regular means of communication will infallibly bring to each of them passengers and goods on which, as yet, we do not calculate. Having regard to the interests involved, to the population and the countries to be served, the commodities to be exchanged, there can be no doubt, in pursuance of all previous railway experience, that offering, in apparent competition with one another, increased facilities, they will, by facilitating additional travelling, increasing knowledge, and inducing commerce, contribute to the advancement rather than to the detriment of one another. There will in time be enough passing between the great East and the busy West to support more than three lines of through communication. . . . These routes will, however, themselves be only provisional, pending the advance of railway communication through the south-east of Europe and through the west of Asia. The lines by Constantinople and the Euphrates Valley, and over the Greek frontier to Cape Sunium, so near to the Suez Canal, have yet in process of time to be constructed; and the hope of the Indian traveller of the next generation, chimerical as it may appear to many at present, must be nothing less than to pass dryshod from London to Bombay—through a sub-marine tunnel from Dover to Calais—through Europe by railway—over the Bosphorus by a bridge; and forward by railway down the Euphrates Valley and round the Persian Gulf to Bombay."

"TAKING THE STANDARD."

OUR Picture, which may be said to be only a new rendering of that Fight for the Standard that is a favourite subject with painters of battle-pieces from the Crusades to Marston Moor, and from the wars of the Roses to Waterloo, is yet the record of an actual event in that latest and most terrible European conflict which culminated in the battle of Sadowa. It was a young Lieutenant of cavalry who was the hero of the scene, and the occasion of his prowess was the fight at Nachod, where he dashed forward and seized the Austrian standard, in the midst of the sharpest skirmish of the day. The Picture is a spirited memento of the event, and may well take rank with some of the most stirring scenes of cavalry service.

STREET TRAMWAYS.

AGAIN the question of street tramways has arisen, and the bills for them both north and south of the Thames have passed the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and have now only to go before the Lords and, in spite of the natural and very strenuous opposition of the London General Omnibus Company, become law. The proposed new tramways differ for the better in every essential from those which were laid down by Mr. Train, and which became so intensely unpopular, a few years ago. These tramways then, indeed, deserved all the obloquy which was showered on them from all sides. They were, in most cases, put down against the will of the street authorities, and the high, rough projection of the

rails made them at all times a nuisance, and often a danger, to the passing traffic. In plain terms, the tramways then were a conspicuous failure—not for want of traffic, for of that they had plenty, but from the outcry that was very deservedly raised against them on account of the obstructions which they caused to all other traffic. The public accommodation was admitted, but the nuisance was weighed in the balance and found to preponderate, and the obnoxious tramways were removed amid general satisfaction. In fact, the tramways which Mr. Train proposed for London were the most obsolete types of those which are now being replaced by proper lines in New York and Philadelphia. The intended trams are very differently made from those old obstructions. The rail is to be perfectly level with the road, and the thin flange of the car-wheels runs in a narrow, shallow groove below the level of the rail itself. Thus the very lightest description of vehicle, from a dog-cart down to a perambulator or a velocipede, can cross the tramway at any part without the slightest hindrance. Indeed, apparently, street traffic from all parts will be very considerable gainers by these tramways, for the House of Commons' Committee has made such a bargain on behalf of the public as has secured to the latter such terms as they perhaps would never have dreamt of making for themselves. One clause provides that there shall be no monopoly of the tram, but that its use shall be open to all vehicles, whether light or heavy, with the simple condition that all heavy traffic shall draw off when the tram cars overtake them; for the tram-cars cannot, of course, turn aside, as they run

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on flanged wheels in their proper grooves. Subject to this condition, the tram will be open to all carriages, and if the tram is laid as it is intended to be laid—that is, on a level surface of granite paving—there is no doubt that the privilege of driving along it will be most liberally used. Another clause gives to the street authorities the power of purchasing the tramways if so inclined. Another clause places them under the control of the police as to regulations of traffic, &c.; and still another clause leaves the by-laws of the company subject always to the approval of the Home Office. In addition to the clauses inserted at the suggestion of the Committee, the promoters of the South London line voluntarily inserted many important clauses in the interest of the public, and it is to be presumed that by these all lines of tramways, either north or south of the Thames, will be bound. Thus one very important clause provides that if, after the tramway has been opened three years, it is not found convenient for the public, then the company must remove it at their own cost. This extreme measure, however, requires the fiat of the Board of Trade. Another point most important to ratepayers is clause 11. By this the companies are bound to pave, and to keep perfectly paved in perpetuity, where tramways are laid in a double line, as much as 16 ft. 6 in. of the roadway; where a single line is laid, 8 ft. 6 in., and thus a considerable saving of the highway rates (in some instances amounting to as much as £500 per mile a year) will be gained to the ratepayers. Of late years the expenses of the repairs of the metropolitan roads have, by the abolition of turnpikes, been thrown upon the vestries, which in some districts has occasioned a very considerable addition to the local rates. The maximum rates to be charged are not to exceed the rate of 1d. per mile, and the companies are also to run cars in the morning and evening for the accommodation of the working classes at half fares. Clause 23 is also very important to the public, inasmuch as it provides that if either the police or any twenty ratepayers complain that the public have not the full benefit of the tramway, and such complaint is found to be true, the Board of Trade may grant licenses to other competitors to use the rails with carriages with flange wheels on payment of a small toll to the original company. An attempt was made in the House of Commons to strike out this clause, but Mr. Bright supported it, and the amendment was withdrawn. A similar line to those which

from street cars. The proposed southern lines are to be both double and single. When single there will be sidings provided at distances of about a mile apart, so that the carriages can pass each other at frequent intervals. The southern lines will begin at the very foot of Blackheath-hill, and pass along by Greenwich, Deptford, Peckham, Camberwell, Camberwell New-road, and so round the Oval to the Vauxhall station. With this line will come another from Britton and Stockwell, which will effect a junction with the Camberwell line near Kennington Park, and pass

the narrow gauge of our railways. The cost of the lines, including the solid granite paving, will not exceed £12,000 a mile, even with the sides of the sunk rails roughed so as to ensure a perfect foothold for horses. The cars will be constructed like that which has been for some time past exhibited at the Crystal Palace. Each car will take about sixty persons, and two horses will be sufficient to draw this at the rate of more than six miles an hour. In point of comfort and convenience these carriages are, of course, infinitely superior to an omnibus. Instead of a

requires the signature of twenty ratepayers to get it done away if it is proved to have failed; and done away with, too, at the cost of the company. *Standard.*

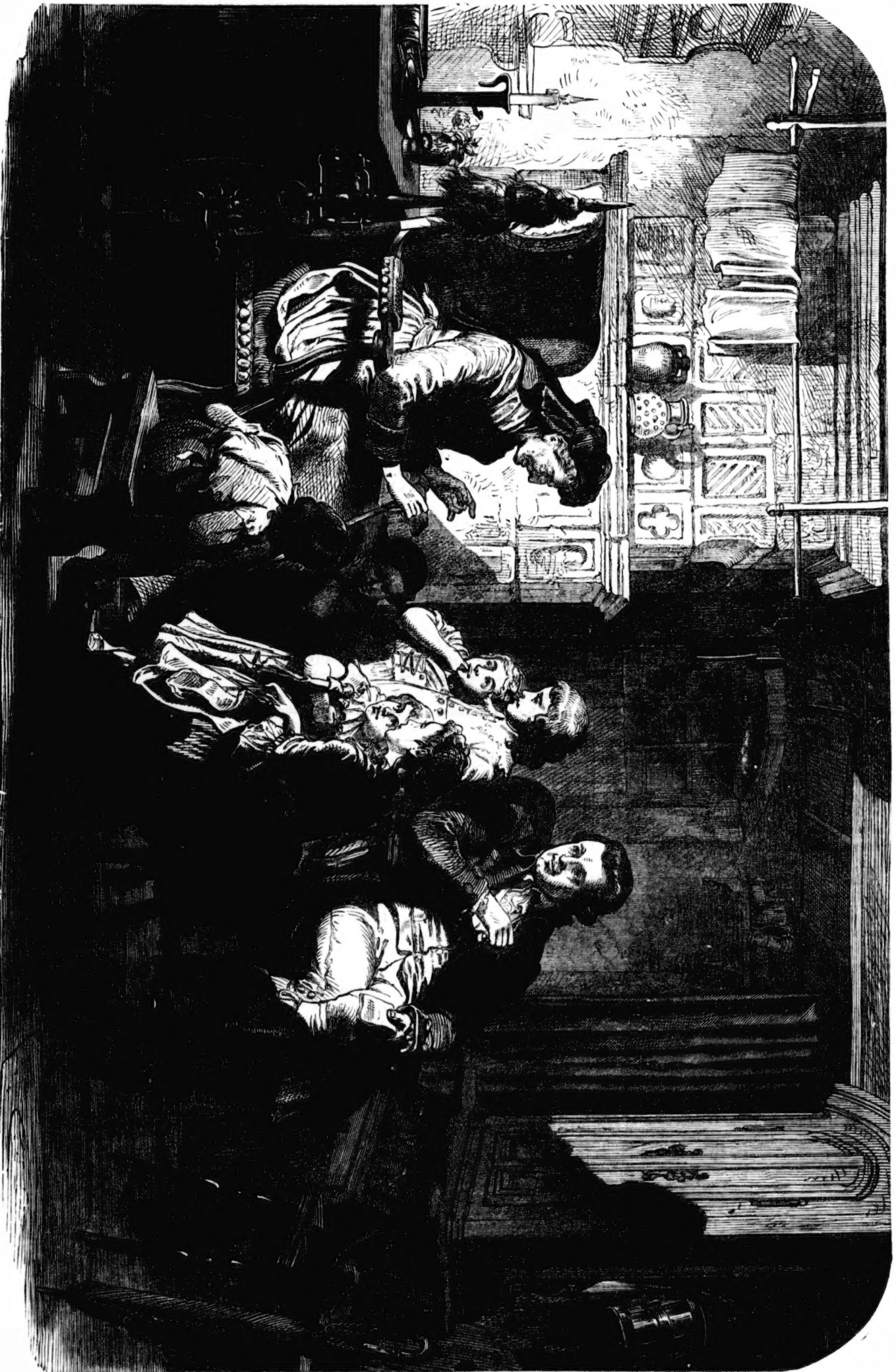
GRANDMAMA'S PARTY.

What is the secret of that bond which so often subsists between the very old and the very young, and is always so often an influence that we scarcely care to puzzle ourselves about guessing?

It is because we hope to have it revealed to us one day in our own experience? Is it that the time comes when the soul, grown truly wise, has given up all that stifle of guessing, and questioning, and fighting for the shadows that are called opinions, and, resting itself in the simple knowledge that springs from faith and trust, becomes even as a little child, and sees in children its own best self—the end of its long experience, the child nature, expanded by experience, made more loving by discipline, its own poor self-consciousness lost in the happier future that is yet close at hand, when it shall realise the meaning of what it is to live—not to itself, but with life eternal, by which it may escape from the narrow fetters of all that self has meant to it? These may almost appear like vague sentimentalities to the middle-aged, who are still wagging the conflict for sordid ends, and forgetting the real issues of things; but, at any rate, there are few so deadened as not to be able to look with a strange kind of emotion at the group of little ones gathered round the grandmother's knee and listening to her old-world stories, made new by the loving illustrations that enforce them. It will be well for us, dear reader, if we, having ever reached the three score years and ten, and yet kept in our hearts that fresh living thrill which will make music for our children's children, can count on a welcome from little voices, feel the loving clasp of tiny hands, and keep sight enough in our old eyes to see those young eyes grow brighter at our coming. A poor end to life say you, only to reach a sort of second childhood? You know not what you mean. It is the end, the only end, worth living for; but then *what* a childhood! with all its little personal meannesses taken away; its vanity cast out; its utter love and trust to be shaken nevermore; its knowledge to come easily, and in exact accordance with its momentary requirements, so that there shall be fullness of joy; no more vague horrors of the night, and terrible fears coming with a dreadful looking for of judgment on the morrow. Let us be humble, and say that we have not yet learnt the true meaning of the terms we use, or childhood would be to us the expression of the infinite gain. Let us make one of grandmama's party, and try to learn a little of what it means; forget for a while the sordid pursuits of buying and selling, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and realise true realities as we listen to the old, old stories that come to us like echoes from a past to whisper to us of a future world.

GRANDMAMA'S PARTY.

thence up the Kennington-road to the corner of the Westminster Bridge-road, at Hercules-buildings. Another line by another company is projected to run from near Whitechapel Church to Bow, and this bill has also passed the House of Commons. Another line is spoken of from the west of Kensington to the top of Oxford-street. The time, however, is soon coming, we believe, when they will be allowed to cross the bridges and make a complete junction with the north and south London systems, the gauges of which are to be precisely alike—that is to say, the same as



it is now proposed to lay down has been in use some time at Copenhagen, and last year it carried 4,000,000 passengers, or just about twenty-five times the population of the whole city. In New York and Brooklyn there is a population of 2,000,000 souls; in London there are 3,000,000; yet, by reason of the facilities afforded by the tramways of New York, some 80,000,000 a year use the cars, while in London only some 42,000,000 use the cars and omnibuses, and it is stated by the Legislature of New York that the percentage of accidents from omnibuses is six times greater than

Imperial Parliament.

THURSDAY, MAY 27.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House reassembled to-day after the Whitsuntide holidays. The attendance of members was by no means numerous.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Hunt, said that, after full inquiry, he did not think it would be possible to substitute for the present system of paying the costs in prosecutions for indictable offences a commutation payment either on a general average or an average of all classes of offences. The costs varied so much in different counties that it was impossible to state an average. In Essex, for instance, the average cost of each prosecution was £8; in Berkshire, £9; in Cheshire, £14; in Lancashire, £23.

Mr. Alderman SALOMONS asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the papers relating to the recent negotiations with the United States on the subject of the Alabama and other matters in dispute will be laid upon the table?

Mr. OTWAY replied that the papers were in course of preparation, and would be ready in a few days.

CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUES DUTIES BILL.

Clause 17 was passed.

On clause 17 Mr. C. READ moved an amendment which was intended to have the effect of extending the exemption from duty on male servants to all under sixteen years of age. He considered this tax, if carried, would be a tax on labour, and operate most disadvantageously.

Mr. STANSFELD said the matter had already been discussed, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had seen no reason to change his original determination.

Mr. HENLEY could have wished that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had seen fit to change his determination, as the enactment of the bill did not give the privilege of appealing against a surcharge, but imposed a hard and fast excise penalty of £20 to be levied on an application to magistrates. He spoke from experience, and could depose to the amount of misery and inconvenience which such cases under the old state of the law occasioned, and which it was proposed to increase by the present enactment.

After some further discussion, the amendment was negatived by a majority of 57 to 28.

The remainder of the clauses, with some amendments as to details, were then agreed to, and the bill, as amended, passed through Committee.

IRISH CHURCH (STAMP DUTIES).

In a Committee of the whole House a resolution was adopted authorising the application of stamp duties on conveyances, &c., executed by the Irish Church Commissioners.

CIVIL OFFICES (PENSIONS) BILL.

The House then went into Committee on this bill, when the various clauses, after some amendments, were agreed to.

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SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1869.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

IT seems to have been believed that when the Royal Academy got into its new quarters at Burlington House, where the space is so much greater than in the old lodgings at Trafalgar-square, native artists would have a better chance of getting their pictures exhibited. Some words—after-dinner words, apparently—of the President of the Academy strengthened the belief, and yet it has failed of fulfilling itself. Never were the complaints of artists so loud; never did the press seem so generally ready to echo them.

Mr. T. J. Gullick, who wrote "The Authorised Handbook to the Pictures in the Westminster Palace," and who is himself, we believe, a painter by education though not now using the brush, has just issued a bold pamphlet which gives some curious statistics and makes outsiders aware of some curious facts. Those who know what evidence is, and how much there usually is to be said on both sides, as the Spectator said of the signboard portrait of Sir Roger de Coverley, will not immediately take for granted all Mr. Gullick says; though they will, if sagacious, feel entire confidence in his honesty and intelligence. But, even after making a fair discount for a point of view which, though disinterested, is of course one of deliberate and vehement attack, the case looks very black against the Council of the Royal Academy, and especially against one or two members of it. According to Mr. Gullick, while the space available for the exhibition of pictures is now trebled, there is an increase of only six in the number of oil paintings this year. Of the whole number of 695 such pictures, no fewer than 167 are by Academicians or Associates—being forty-two in excess of last year's number. There are seventy by foreign artists, or sixty more than last year. On the whole, the number of oil paintings by native outsiders, instead of being more, is actually one hundred less than it was last year. Now, as, in full reliance upon the promises held out to them of a better chance this year, artists have been working harder than ever, and 1600 pictures have been sent in more than were ever sent in previously, the indignation of the disappointed ones and their friends is naturally great. Taking into account the proportion of works sent in and works accepted and hung, Mr. Gullick finds that, at the very lowest, there are 220 less of the latter than there ever were before—the calculation being still confined to oil paintings by outsiders. The general result, from pushing these figures a few steps farther, is that the native artists' chances, with a wall space trebled, are exactly halved.

Mr. Gullick has something to say, and very amusing it is too, about the way in which pictures are examined and passed by the Council of Examiners before the Exhibition opens. It seems that there is not a single landscape-painter in the Council—and this in the land which is the home of landscape-painting!—and that the pictures sent in this year

must have been "examined" and passed (in one way or the other) at the rate of about three a minute. Two of the days of examination were very foggy; and, as no human being can examine pictures long together without losing freshness of eye and clearness of head, the value of the decisions thus arrived at may well be imagined. To these general matters Mr. Gullick adds some facts, which we have no doubt he could greatly multiply, about the rejection of fine pictures by Mr. Linnell, Mr. Constable, and Mr. Sandys.

The immediate outcome of all this is to be a Supplementary Exhibition of excluded pictures, in which, by-the-way, the rejected "Medea" of Mr. Sandys is included. We only wish that some such step had been taken before; but Englishmen are always loth to quit a beaten track, or to desert any institution which has the shadow of a prestige. The Royal Academy has, in addition to the prestige of long life and tradition, the aid of direct Royal patronage, of the public money, and of something like the position of a Government department. Now, since a painter needs a special, technical training, which a poet or novelist does not need—having to learn the use of instruments which are not as universally familiar as language (even this distinction, however, not being final)—there is a special reason for academies in his case. But it is impossible to show that, ultimately, a quasi-governmental Academy of Painting, with special powers of dictating to public taste, is any more reasonable than a quasi-governmental Academy of Poetry would be. There cannot be any final reason why a picture as bad as a signboard should not be allowed a swim for its life which would not also be a reason for appointing a Censor of the Press. What the bookmaker wants is to get his work published. What the painter wants is to get his picture exhibited. For him the analogue of the publisher is the "dealer," and a very bad analogue no doubt. In the mean while the number of the "atechnic" judges, as Mr. Hamerton calls them, or the "unskilled" critics, as Mr. Tyrwhitt calls them, being, or being supposed to be, greater in the case of paintings than in that of most other arts, patronage, quasi-patronage, and quasi-governmental "nursing" cling to pictures when all such things have long ago quitted literature and very nearly quitted the stage. But the time of the painter will come, like the time of the poet; and this Supplementary Exhibition is a step in the right direction. We heartily wish it success; but it must take a word of warning. If a hundred painters say to certain already accredited judges, "We decline to submit to your award, we appeal to the public," they themselves are liable, as to any council of selection or any principle of choice they may adopt (except entire freedom of exhibition) to a *tu quoque*; and there may logically come to be a separate exhibition for every knot of signboard-painters in the country. And what for no? Why should not a silly painter have the same chance as a silly author or a silly actor?

PERMISSIVE PROHIBITION.

THE intelligent and watchful contributor who sketches for the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, week by week, the progress of Parliamentary affairs has given reasons for believing that the joy of Mr. Dawson Burns, and other friends of the thin end of the wedge of compulsion, over the diminution of the majority against his bill this year, is a premature joy. There is, however, one reason more, and we will add it. Allowing all the weight you please to the figures in favour of Mr. Dawson Burns and his coadjutors, it must be remembered that in this country you are sure to knock the spade sooner or later against a solid stratum of educated resistance to compulsion; and when once you have touched that, you may hammer and hack a long while without making any impression. With Englishmen personal freedom is a tradition of the character itself, and in its educated form it is about the most powerful element in political life—as strong, if not stronger, in the Tory than in the Radical, when once you come to what is strictly personal. And the educated classes who represent this traditional sentiment look with such distant contempt upon small tyranny, that it is not easy to rouse them into putting the foot down upon it when they see it has no chance; which was precisely the state of facts in the case before us.

THE WIMBLEDON MEETING.—At the ensuing Wimbledon meeting the principal prizes will be shot for on the undermentioned days:—Monday, July 5, Prince of Wales's; Tuesday, 6th, St. George's challenge vase; Thursday, 8, Lords and Commons match; Saturday, 10, International English trophy, England, Scotland, Ireland, and perhaps Wales, competing with twenty men aside; Monday, 12, Irish international challenge trophy; Tuesday, 13, Queen's prize, £250 and gold medal, public schools' match; Wednesday, 14, Elcho challenge shield; Thursday, 15, International "eight" champion match; Friday, 16, ladies' prizes and the Dudley cup.

PROPOSED SHIP CANAL.—The Municipal Council of Bordeaux have now under consideration a scheme which may, with little hesitation, be pronounced as having for its object the grandest, most important, and most economical work that has been proposed for centuries, and it is one, moreover, which especially interests the commercial world of Great Britain. The project is simply the cutting a great ship canal from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean! The proposer, M. Sual de Magnacourt, estimates the cost of the work at 442,000,000*fr.*—less than £18,000,000; and the time necessary for its completion at six years. It would form a direct line of communication with India by the Isthmus of Suez, and save the whole circuit of the Portuguese and Spanish coasts in the case of ships from England or any of the northern ports of Europe. It is probable that England might derive some benefit commercially from such a scheme, but it is also probable that the possession of Gibraltar might not prove so valuable as it is at present assumed to be. As regards the practicability and comparative economy of the project, there cannot be a doubt. Let anyone cast his eye over the map of France, and he will see that if a straight line be drawn from Bordeaux through Toulouse it will touch the coast of the Gulf of Lyons not far from Perpignan. From Bordeaux to Toulouse, the Garonne is a navigable and busy river, so that over two thirds of the line it is only a question of widening and correcting a waterway already in existence. From Toulouse to the Gulf of Lyons there exists the Canal du Midi, and by means of these an immense traffic is carried on between the southern and western departments of France. The line of water exists already; all that is required is to deepen and straighten it; and if this could be done in half the time mentioned, at double the cost, it would be the most economical piece of work, perhaps, that was ever executed.—*The Engineer.*

THE LOUNGER.

THE Whitsuntide holidays are over, and on Monday next all our senators will settle down quietly to work again. The House of Commons began work on Thursday—my Lords do not begin till Monday. The Prime Minister was privately urged to take as long a holiday. "You may as well give us the Oaks," said the sporting men. But, no, he could not do it; Thursday he must have to recommit the Irish Church Bill, to insert therein the stamp-duty clauses, so as to get the bill read the third time and passed on Monday, and into the Upper House on Tuesday. Besides, Government business is in arrears. There is a Bankruptcy Bill to get passed, Mr. Forster's education measure, Mr. Layard's Courts of Law Site Bill, &c.; besides all the Civil Service estimates to be voted. Of course there has been little authentic news stirring during the past fortnight—none could be picked up in the great thoroughfares or at the clubs. Only in out-of-the-way nooks and corners could one get a stray fact or trustworthy rumour. But one even in the holidays hears the cackling and fluttering of canards. Those ubiquitous birds are always and everywhere on the wing. As a rule, I do not notice their cackling; but here is a canard caught the other day which one may as well throttle off hand. The Secretary to the Admiralty has discarded the old system of buying coals by competitive tenders, and employs an agent or broker to buy them, following the example of the great steam-ship companies. Of course the change fell like a bomb-shell in certain quarters. The accustomed contractors were in a fume about it. Like the Ephesians who made silver plates for the Temple of Diana, they saw that if this new plan were carried out their gains were gone. These contracts for coals, like many other public contracts, were shams. Tenders were made upon the well-known knock-out principle. One got the contract, but under an agreement that several should share the profits; or one got this on condition that another was to have that. No wonder, then, that the disappointed accustomed contractors set flying all sorts of canards. Here is one which I have caught, and will throttle:—It has been asserted that the Secretary of the Admiralty has bought coals at an extravagant price—much dearer, indeed, than they were purchased under the old system. But the truth is, that the saving in coals for the Navy will be very large—something like £150,000 for the year. Nobody who knows the Secretary of the Navy—naturally acute as he is, and used as he has been all his life to business—could imagine that he does not know what he is about.

It has, though, been objected—and with some appearance of truth on the face of the objection—that though this new system may work well so long as you have an intelligent and able man of business in office to work it, the plan will utterly fail if we should come to have as Admiralty Secretary, as we have had, an inefficient man—some young Lord, for example, who never bought anything in his life, except gloves, cigars, perfumery, and other trifles. But the working the system will not depend entirely upon the Secretary. Mr. Baxter has organised a purchase department, and this will be permanent. Then, besides, I rather fancy that, with an earnest, reformed Parliament, comprising more men of business than any preceding Parliament, it will not be so easy as it has been heretofore for inexperienced, inefficient young Lords, or other perfunctory people, to get into such a post as the Secretaryship of the Admiralty. This place used to be considered almost a sinecure. But all this is changed. The Secretary to the Admiralty has a vast amount of business to transact, and it may be fairly hoped that no First Lord will dare to appoint a man to the post who knows nothing about business. Napoleon's motto was "Tools to the men who can use them;" and there are signs that this is at length to be our principle. But, whatever may happen, the new system cannot be worse than the old. That was notoriously corrupt, and even rotten. A perfect system is an impossibility. We are all cheated every day of our lives; and the Government, purchasing so largely as it does, of course will be cheated. But the old system seemed formed to throw the supply of at least many articles into the hands of rogues. Indeed, many honest, respectable houses in some departments of trade long since refused to have anything to do with Government business.

A mediæval adage tells us that "The cat loves fish, but is loth to wet her feet;" and perhaps the leaders of the Conservative party in the Lords are like puss, hesitating, looking, and longing, but afraid to plunge in. It is in their hearts to destroy the Irish Church Bill; but, at present, they "let I dare not wait upon I would," like the cat, &c. Nevertheless, as cats have been known when over-pressed with hunger to dash into a stream after fish, so the noble Lords, regardless of consequences, may throw the bill out. Rumour, though, in quarters in which the truth is likely to be known, steadily and confidently reports that their Lordships will accept the principle of the measure and amend it in Committee. With a small majority in the Commons at the back of it, it would be destroyed at a blow; but a steady majority of three figures in a House just elected specially to settle this question may well make their Lordships pause; and I, as at present advised, think they will pause. It is a hateful bill. To many of their Lordships it is nauseous, but then it might have been worse; and, if it be rejected, the next probably will be worse. Given that the Irish Church must be disestablished—and surely the dullest Lord that ever wore a coronet must see that this is a very mild bill—a bill much more favourable to the interests which their Lordships are supposed to champion than they could have hoped to see, and certainly as favourable as any that they can expect to see. So let us hope that they will, however nauseous the dose may be, shut their eyes and swallow it.

"Oh that the late Parliament could have lasted another year, and that Mr. Hunt could have continued for another year Chancellor of the Exchequer!" the Post Office officials, anxious to get the telegraphs under their control, may well sigh, and probably do sigh. With Mr. Hunt as Chancellor of the Exchequer, everything went on swimmingly. But when Mr. Lowe got to the Treasury, a dark cloud lifted itself up above the horizon, gradually expanded, and now covers the whole heaven, with scarcely a glimmer of light discernible. I do not know that Lowe has actually pronounced against the scheme. I think he has not, but is merely silent. But his silence, like Burleigh's shake of the head, is very significant. The Postmaster-General, the Marquis of Hartington, is known to be favourable to the scheme. But he has but little power. The Cabinet, nominally, must decide; but Mr. Lowe really. Be the majority of the Cabinet never so favourable, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer should frown upon the scheme, it will certainly be dropped. It may, though, be reasonably doubted whether the Cabinet is favourable. Last year, when the scheme was launched, it was said that only three millions would be required. Gradually, however, the sum grew to four, to five, to six; and the *Economist* (a good authority) of last Saturday hints that nine or ten will be required, and tells us (what, by-the-by, I long since told you) that the net cost of laying the telegraphic wires and providing instruments, &c., which it is proposed that Government should buy, could not have amounted to more than one million. All the rest—the five, or six, or nine millions—would be expended on equaring the companies. This would startle any Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Hunt, one would think, would be appalled. Mr. Lowe, I imagine, will put the project aside as too wild to be thought of; especially as he holds that Government ought not to do for the people what the people can do for themselves. My old friend Rumour, whom I so often have to consult, has whispered in my ear in quiet tones that Mr. Layard will have some difficulty in carrying his bill to alter the site of the Law Courts. It was easy to see that a majority of the House, when Mr. Gregory brought the question forward, was in favour of the Thames Embankment. This is proved by the fact that the advocates of this site, when dinner-time came, found a very great difficulty in getting pairs. Mr. Lowe, too, was decidedly in favour of the Thames Embankment, mainly, though, as it seemed to me, because Layard's plan was so much less expensive than the original scheme. But the prompt answer to this was that Layard's less pretentious

and much cheaper structure might be placed on the Carey-street site, already cleared and ready, at a less cost than that at which it could be placed on or near the Embankment; and this answer, together with the fact that you may begin to build at once on the Carey-street site, whereas you would have to wait some four or five years before you could build on the other, which at present is covered with houses, has, Rumour says, been simmering in the minds of members, and produced a great change since the question was before the House.

A most disgraceful scene took place a few days ago at Hanwell (some of the denizens of which should, I think, be "in confinement" in the asylum or elsewhere, who are not). The old and somewhat silly practice of "beating the bounds" of the parish was being performed by the overseers, churchwardens, and other functionaries, and a large crowd collected, chiefly composed of "roughs," in front of the Duke of York Inn, where the party were to finish their fourteen miles' journey. The ceremony was to be crowned by a public dinner, in genuine Saxon fashion, to which the local clergy, Dissenting ministers, and the Rev. Dr. Laing, Roman Catholic priest, were invited. A paragraph in the newspapers thus relates what followed:—"There being a slight interval, the crowd amused themselves as best they could; but when the Rev. Dr. Laing crossed the road a party of the rougher sort surrounded the rev. gentleman, demanded that he should be 'bumped,' rudely seized him by his legs and arms, bore him forward amidst tremendous shouts, and in the presence of greatly increased numbers of people, notwithstanding his loud protestations, and even his repeated attempts to escape from the indignity, they thrice violently 'bumped' him against the sign-post which stands in front of the inn. Dr. Laing being of a rather corpulent disposition, the operation was by no means an easy or pleasing one; and even when it was over, he was still beset as he rushed into the Duke of York, and was glad to compound for a non-repetition of the 'bumping' process by acceding to the extortion of the mob, and paying for a libation of beer. A police-officer from the vicinity, a reporter from the next parish, and others had to go through a similarly rough treatment; and it is intended to summon the principal roughs for the assault upon the constable." This, however, as I happen to know, does not tell all that occurred. A clergyman of the Church of England was "bumped," as well as the Catholic priest, so the "roughs" cannot be suspected of over-excited Protestant proclivities; so also were several respectable gentlemen, perfect strangers, who happened, unfortunately for themselves, to be in the locality. One or two of these gentlemen showed fight, and gave some trouble to their assailants, but were eventually overpowered, and rather severely maltreated. However, in a certain railway porter (I wish I knew his name, for it deserves to be recorded), whom they likewise attempted to subject to the "bumping" operation, the roughs caught a Tartar. This man placed his back against a wall and knocked down rough after rough as they approached him, all the while "chaffing" them in a very effective manner. He told them he should immensely like being "bumped"—if they could do it; he invited them to try; he stimulated the roughs' courage by offering half a crown to whoever would take hold of him for the purpose; but whenever any one ventured within reach of the porter's stalwart arm, out flew the latter's fist, a regular sledge-hammer-like shoulder blow was delivered, and down went the too-daring rough. This game, after a little, proving rather too hot to be pleasant, the porter was left unmolested, and the Hanwell roughs directed their attentions to other less "awkward customers." Seriously, is it not supremely absurd that such antiquated and utterly unnecessary practices as those of "beating the bounds" should be kept up, seemingly for the sole purpose of affording blackguards an opportunity of disporting themselves at the expense of decent people? The boundaries of Hanwell, it seems, have been beaten only twice during the last sixty-nine years—namely, in the years 1826 and 1848. I hope that the exhibition witnessed the other day will make the event rarer still in the future annals of the parish.

London to Tunbridge Wells by coach! Yes, London to Tunbridge Wells by a four-horse coach. And such an one! Not a dilapidated "stage" of the past generation, furnished up for a season, but a brand new one—made upon the old model, certainly, but fitted with modern appliances which give all the ease of a private carriage. And then the "horsing" and the appointments are also first-class, for the proprietor (who drives and is a capital whip) is a gentleman, and he started this venture chiefly to gratify his intense love for coaching, making the commercial part of the business a mere secondary consideration. The announcement of such an outing, with the advantages offered, awoke recollections of my youth, and I resolved one day last week to take the trip. The weather being fine, we left the White Horse Cellar at 10 a.m., went along Piccadilly, down Waterloo-place, and round Charing-cross, threading our way amidst numerous vehicles with the most perfect ease; then over Westminster Bridge, when we began to increase our pace; past the Elephant and Castle, where the 'bus drivers were fain to salute us; through New-cross, to Lewisham, where we changed horses, and where the country begins to open up; on to Farnborough, through Bromley, and then another change. Over Green-street-green to the Poll Hill Arms, and change horses once more; thence to the pleasantly-situated town of Seven Oaks for the fourth relay. On again, past Knole Park, where a magnificent landscape met our view; down River-hill to Tunbridge at a rattling pace (this stage, about seven miles, having been got over within half an hour), where we changed for the last time; and then on to Tunbridge Wells, arriving at the Sussex Hotel from London in three hours and three quarters, including stoppages, after a very appetising journey, and not sorry to find a prime hot luncheon awaiting the arrival of the coach. The return journey was performed with the same punctuality as the down one, and altogether I was highly pleased with the trip; for a more thoroughly enjoyable ride it would scarcely be possible to conceive, as the greater portion of the journey lies through the most fertile part of Kent.

At the anniversary meeting, last week, of one of the best institutions in London I was glad to hear that more is being done for the comfort of the sailors of our mercantile marine when they come on shore, after a voyage. The Sailors' Home, in Well-street, near the London Docks, is going on and prospering, as it well deserves to do, since it has been established, more than thirty years, to endeavour to rescue Jack from the crimps and runners who formerly infested the ships, even before they left Gravesend. These gentry have been a little "flabbergasted"—to use Jack's own expression—by the Government order forbidding anybody not officially accredited to board vessels at Gravesend; but they are still in force at the docks, to fasten on the seamen who are kept in London by the delay of owners to pay wages, or are seeking for a lodging while they stay ashore. For 15s. a week the home at Well-street boards and lodges seamen, apprentices, and boys, and boards and lodges them well; with all the advantages of a sailors' club-house, including medical attendance, bagatelle, and other amusements; a library, a savings bank under the authority of the Board of Trade, and other advantages. During the past twelve months many thousands of officers and men have found the benefit of this home; but there is another institution in connection with it—the Destitute Sailors' Asylum, for the care and cure of destitute sick and disabled sailors. Is it necessary to say a word in its behalf, and to invite subscriptions for it, when we never sit down to a meal without having to thank sailors for half our luxuries?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

In saying last week, apropos of Mr. Merivale's "Iliad," that Mr. George Meredith in the *Fortnightly* reversed the verdict of other reviewers, my reference was to *adverse* reviews, which were the only ones that had then come before me. At this moment the consensus of criticism is largely in favour of Mr. Merivale.

The *Contemporary* contains a capital paper by the Rev. John

Hunt on "David Hume;" one, also good, by the Rev. St. John Tywhitt on "Skilled and Unskilled Art-Criticism;" and one by Professor Conington, on Dr. Döllinger's (and, as it appears), Mr. Liddon's reading of the well-known words in Matthew, *parektois logou porneias*. Mr. Conington might have much strengthened his article by reading beforehand Milton's "Tetrachordon." But the only satisfactory criticism upon the passage is—a stroke of common sense which, frankly admitting that to treat it as of present application is an anachronism, easily hits at a glance what the words really did drive at. But to pass on to a subject of real present application, "Children and Children's Literature," discussed by Mr. H. A. Page, is an article as exasperating on the whole as good in rare passages. The quite obvious errors upon matters of fact are, as usual with him, numerous. Mr. Coventry Patmore has said nothing like what he attributes to him. A definition of "intense lyric poetry," which shuts out a battle song or a bridal song, is an absurdity on the face of it. Mr. Tennyson's "Dora" is an idyl, and not a lyric. Children, as a rule, do not prefer old dolls to new ones. Miss Ingelow is not "deficient in humour." Children are so different one from another that the whole of this profound wisdom about "the child this" and "the child" that is simply solemn humbug. "The child is father to the man," and uncommonly like his off-spring. Lastly, it is surely a joke to lay down the rule that "the only humour which children can comprehend is the humour of the simple grotesque—the whimsicality of the direct burlesque," and then to tell really pretty stories of them which flatly contradict the rule, and to praise Hans Christian Andersen as the prince of child-story writers (which, of course, he is). If Andersen's humour is either "simple grotesque" or "direct burlesque," I must overhaul my vocabulary. However, to pass on, for this bit of Lounger must be in part a review of a book. You know how long a square little volume entitled "Child-World" lay in a certain drawer before I took it. The reason was very peculiar: two thirds of the book are very beautiful indeed, one third is (not simply chip-in-porridge, but) gravely objectionable. When a previous volume by the same authors (on the whole, extremely beautiful) appeared, some of the reviewers said, with justice, that one of the authors, "A," was apt in her lighter moods to run off into mere farce or extravagance. This fault is not only very greatly exaggerated in "Child-World," it has slipped down to positive cockneyism and slang. Well, I waited to see what the reviewers said; and, with the exception of a brief hint in the *British Quarterly*, I have not read a line addressed to this fault—no, not even in the two leading journals which most strongly indicated it at first. I attribute this to the fact that reviewers who do not happen to take a strong interest in children's books would naturally be attracted by the very best things in the volume, gladly dwell upon them, and pass the rest over. But, in a serious case, somebody must speak, and the lot has fallen upon an unwilling man. The subject is really worth a little attention and a little space.

The rule, or understanding, of humorous-imaginative literature, as distinct from casual comic writing, is that, as far as possible, it shall assume on the part of the reader no knowledge which he is not certain to possess as to matters of fact forming the raw material of the writing. This, in strictness, excludes ephemeral, newspaper, or mere club topics; except under the severest limitations. Take up the mere periodical writings of a great humourist like Hood, and see how the aroma is gone—how much fine power was wasted! Take up a thing which is under your eyes—"Hans Breitmann's Barty," which a child almost can make out, which you might make partly intelligible to a Red Indian; contrast it with the more personal poems of Mr. Leland, and note how the latter degrade, and what heaps of comment they require. Yet in "Child-World" you find topics that I should never think of introducing even into a volume of undress essays without some kind of apology—such as Banting, the "Regent's Park Zoo," and Mr. Buckland's porpoise at the Folkestone Hotel. And the usual consequence ensues—the very writing degenerates into slipshod. Thus we have fun got out of such things as—"regardless of expense;" "teach me how to bant;" "he blessed himself a few;" "the moon sang toll-de-roll-de-roo;" "a muff;" "crumpled, wagging, weak;" "like bricks;" "snobs, nob's;" "history's page;" "cove;" "rile;" and just the turns of speech and of fun that you find in an indifferent burlesque. Besides this, the verse too often descends to mere dribble, as in "The Fairy's Wedding," "The Naughty Star" (!), "Neptune," or "The Talking Flowers":—

Each with his shield and weapon,
Sabreash, spurs, and spears,
Gallantly, oh! they step on,
The fairy volunteers.

Twelve little fairy curates
After the soldiers come:
Poor little legs! I'm sure it's
Seldom you've marched to the drum!

M. B. coats their wear is,
Almost down to their feet—
Little clerical fairies,
Miniature Dons complete.

Is that thunder? No, it's Dahlias,
Speaking in angry tones!
The Chrysanthemums make fail-
ures—

These are not words, but groans.
Mignonetter does it better;
Pink gives a feeble "cheep."
Chatter, clatter, what's the matter?

White Syringa, pray don't bring a
New language in a heap.
Chatter, clatter, what's the matter?
How can I go to sleep?

This is too slipshod for even fireside improvising; and then we have actually as bad cases of word play as can be found in any poor burlesque—"Serious" and "Sirius," "planets" and "planing," and a few others. Now and then there are utterly inadmissible rhymes, such as "court and thought," "star and papa." In near all the light pieces the sense has to be picked out by italics, parentheses, dashes, and other things alien to good verse. Even the stately "B" in "A Boy's Aspirations" makes the "boy" (who would find short shrift with me, I can tell him) "aspire" after beer to tea and a pipe to smoke. Now, the worst of all this is, that it is in close company with much that is noble and beautiful, and that scores of people will be sure to think it is very clever—quite wonderful. Mr. H. A. Page, for example, says that in "Ogres" we have the "atmosphere of the nursery rhyme" (!)—Banting, Fenians, and the "nineteenth-century" contempt for ogress being, I suppose, "nursery rhyme" ornaments—and then says it is "inimitable." If it were, a simple, childlike taste would cry, Long may it keep so! but, alas, it is fatally easy, and there is the mischief. Unluckily, the really wonderful illustrations of "W. J. W." do much to make the verses interesting, though he now and then goes wrong.

If space allowed, it would be fine fun to produce some of Mr. Page's anecdotes of children—good in themselves, but made absurd by his taste for deep-sea soundings in six-foot water. Thus, a bright little boy calls the pearl buttons on a man's shooting-coat fish-eyes, and says they looked queer at him. Wonderful insight of childhood! exclaims Mr. Page. The man was of a fishy habit of life, and the child saw the "deep affinity" of the buttons with "a permanent personal trait." Even taking into account the man's eyes (which the anecdote as it stands does not justify), Mr. Page must know that when we say "a fishy eye" and "a fishy life" we mean totally different things by the word "fishy;" in the second case, the meaning being quite inapprehensible by a child. This writer has something to say of "affected cleverness." Does he know what affected profundity is? In the same "profound" vein, the critic finds that "a sentiment of revolution pervades" a toy-book called "Lilliput Levee" and "is constantly appearing;" which is about as true as that the dolls in the Lowther Arcade are Red Republicans—a thing absolutely without one grain of excuse in the book itself. Speaking of the same little volume the profound critic discovers that an "idea" in the "Introduction" "finds much truer lyrical setting" in a little piece in the same book called "Topsy-Turvy World." This is pure Monmouth and Macedon—there is *inversion* in both cases, but no other shade of similarity. He also discovers that the author brings "a brooding Wordsworthian feeling to Nature," and nobody knows what else. The fact being that there is only one very short piece in the book which can by any stretch of criticism be called "Wordsworthian:" five sixths of the whole trifle being

made up of the most innocent stories conceivable, or anecdotes, or pictures in verse—absolutely crowded with the "anthropomorphism" which Mr. Page cannot find. He must have been reading something else, and forgotten what. One thing he did not read, the full title of the book, or else he would not have made the solemn announcement that it contained a piece or two *about* rather than *for* children. But so acute a critic should have discovered the frequency with which familiar nursery rhymes are echoed in "Lilliput Levee," "Polly," "Madcap," and "Prince Philibert," are carefully exact echoes of nursery rhymes. "The Bewitched Toys" and "Froddobulbulum's Fancy" are almost wholly echoes of such rhymes.

Two jokes more. Mr. Page warns Mr. Carroll against approaching "direct social caricature," "as in the matter of the jurors" (see "Alice," p. 162 sqq.); and gravely states that ballads, such as Mr. Coventry Patmore has inserted in the "Children's Garland," are "liable to an objection he has often heard from parents, that they would rather their children got their history in some other form." If I were to hear a parent make such an objection, I should be inclined to move the Court of Chancery to deprive him of the custody of his children, and put him in a madhouse.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The supply of burlesque material is, to all appearance, inexhaustible; for, although the subjects that provoke burlesque are, necessarily, limited in range, still, in ten years or so, a stale subject becomes fresh again, and plots that the burlesque-writer would have rejected in 1859, as *rococo*, are, in 1869, as fresh, for his purpose, as if they had been written only yesterday. "The Corsican Brothers," originally produced at the Princess's Theatre in 1850, when the theatre was under the joint management of the Keans and the Keeleys, was duly honoured, at the time of its production, by being made the theme of many a burlesque-writer, especially of the late Mr. Gilbert & Beckett, who produced an amusing version of the work at the Haymarket, Mr. Compton playing the part of the injured twin. Now, after a lapse of nearly twenty years, the same subject, duly burlesqued by Mr. Byron, is again before the public, at the GLOBE, and likely to remain in its present conspicuous position for many nights to come. "The Corsican Brothers," as Mr. Byron christens his burlesque, is pleasantly written; capably acted by Mr. Clarke, Miss Brennan, and Miss Hughes, and gorgeously placed upon the stage by Mr. Sefton Parry. The dialogue is thickly studded with outrageous puns, and the songs, which are principally of the music-hall type, appear to please the more demonstrative members of the audience. Mr. Clarke's "make up" as the surviving brother is a miracle of amusing eccentricity; and Miss Maggie Brennan plays Chateau Renaud with a vivacious malignity that is quite in keeping with the character. I do not see the force of transplanting the scene of the ball from the Opera to Mabilie—particularly as the scene immediately preceding the ball evidently takes place in the opera-box lobby. But the piece is a close travesty on the original; and I suppose that Mabilie is substituted for the opera because it is *de rigueur* in burlesque that everything that admits of parody should be parodied. The dresses are fantastic in character, not, as a bilious contemporary suggests, because there is indecency in the spectacle of a set of girls showing their legs, but because a burlesque played in modern coats and trousers would be far too like a rehearsal to suit the tastes of the majority of theatre-goers.

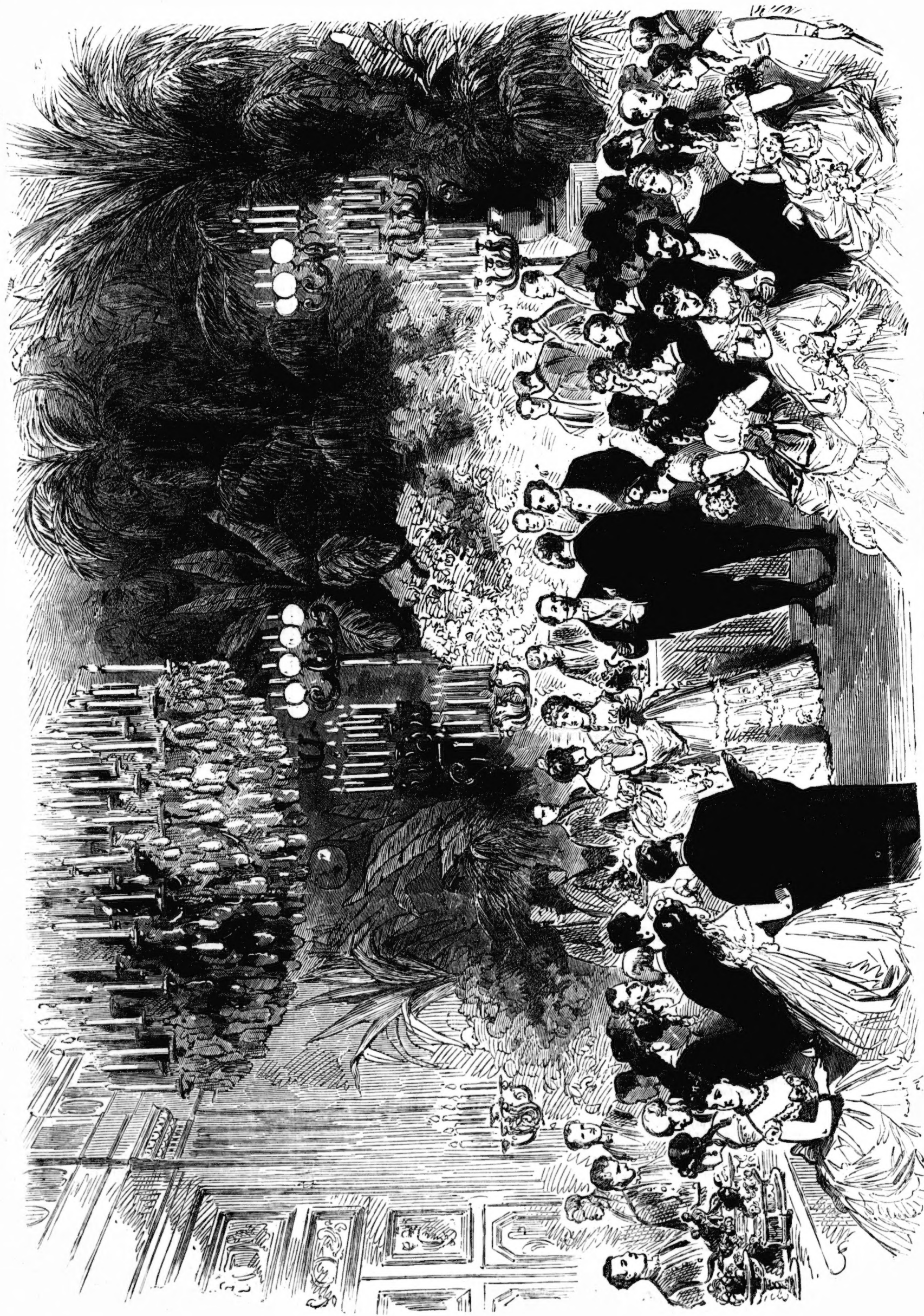
"The Battle of Waterloo" has been revived at ASTLEY'S, with all its traditional effects. A host of Guardsmen have been engaged to represent the British troops; and an imposing Wellington and an effective Napoleon vie with each other in paying graceful compliments, in alternate scenes, to their enemies' country. Altogether, notwithstanding certain obvious drawbacks, the piece is full of bustle and "situation."

Mr. Mark Lemon resumed his Shakespearean "Readings in Costume" on Monday, at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, Regent-street. Mr. Smale, the treasurer of the PRINCESS OF WALES, takes his benefit next Monday.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT PARIS.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales, on occasion of their late visit to Paris, contrived to remain in the French capital as long as they could without neglecting home duties. The Royal people are reported to have expressed to the Emperor and Empress how much they appreciated the kindness and attention which the Court had bestowed upon them. Carriages and horses were at their disposal, the Imperial boxes at the theatres were offered, the hospitality of the Tuilleries was familiar to the Prince and Princess, and they attended the reception of the Empress on Monday evening, May 10. They were honoured by a magnificent cavalry review; they were visited by the Prince Imperial at the Hôtel Bristol, and many persons of official distinction waited on their Royal Highnesses. The future occupants of the throne of Great Britain did not create any particular curiosity amongst the Parisians, nor were they ever importuned in any way. The Prince and Princess did their shopping; and the former walked about the streets making his observations, whilst the Princess, in a carriage, made herself familiar with the new boulevards and public buildings of Imperial Paris. It is not difficult to imagine how amiably and pleasantly the Empress comported herself towards the Princess; and, if report speaks correctly, another early visit is promised. The Emperor has had many opportunities since the first Universal Exhibition (1855) of forming his estimation of the Heir to the British Throne. His Royal Highness has passed through Paris on several occasions, and never failed to see the Emperor. During his last visit he will have had ample material for conversation, independent of ordinary politics, which the Prince does not much indulge in. He had just returned from the scenes of the Crimean War, a visit to the Sultan and youthful King of Greece, whilst he had inspected that great French enterprise, the Suez Canal. He could tell the Empress much that would interest her on the latter subject, as it is now stated positively that her Majesty will attend the official opening of the canal this year. The Viceroy of Egypt and M. de Lesseps expect that a number of illustrious personages will be present. We have not heard if the Prince and Princess visited the ex-Queen of Spain, but the Austrian Archduke Louis-Victor, who was in Paris at the same time as our own Prince and Princess, did so. A visit to Versailles was the only excursion made in the country.

DEATH OF MR. PETER CUNNINGHAM.—Mr. Peter Cunningham, the well-known antiquarian writer, died, on the 18th inst., at St. Albans, Herts, where he had lived since failing health compelled him to withdraw from his literary occupations in London, some eight or ten years ago. Mr. Cunningham, who was in the fifty-fourth year of his age, was a son of the late Mr. Allan Cunningham, and was born in London, in April, 1816. He received his early education at Christ's Hospital, and at the age of eighteen was appointed to a clerkship in the Audit Office, through the interest of Sir Robert Peel, who entertained a great respect for his father. He rose by gradual steps to become one of the heads of his department, and retired from the public service on a pension in 1860. For many years he contributed the column of antiquarian gossip and "Table Talk" to the *Illustrated London News*, for which work his wide acquaintance with the anecdote biography of our country, from the reign of Anne down to the era of the Regency, especially fitted him. He was also a constant contributor to periodical literature, especially to the *Gentleman's Magazine* and to the pleasant pages of *Once a Week*. Mr. Cunningham was the author of "The Life of Drummond of Hawthornden," with selections from his poems; "The Songs of England and Scotland," "The Handbook of Westminster Abbey," "The Life of Inigo Jones" (for the Shakespeare Society), "Modern London," and "The Story of Nell Gwynne;" he also wrote the "Memoir" of J. M. W. Turner, which is prefixed to John Burnet's edition of "Turner and his Works;" and he was known as the editor and annotator of "Johnson's Lives of the Poets," "Horace Walpole's Letters," "The Works of Oliver Goldsmith" (for Murray's "Library of the British Classics"), &c.; but the work in connection with which his name will longest be remembered is his "Handbook of London," published by Murray, of which several successive editions have appeared, and which has now established itself as a classic. Mr. Cunningham married, about the year 1841 or 1842, Miss Zenobia Martin, daughter of the late John Martin, the accomplished painter of "The Deluge," "Belshazzar's Feast," &c.



THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT THE MONDAY RECEPTION OF THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE.

THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER.

THE HON. JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY, the new Minister of the United States to the Court of St. James's, who is expected to reach our shores this week, will be heartily welcomed by a vast number of persons in this country, irrespective of their political opinions. As a man of high literary attainments, the result of long years of untiring assiduity, he is known to most of the learned societies of Europe, and as an accomplished and instructive author numbers of readers in Great Britain have for a lengthened period held him in much esteem. Mr. Motley was born in Massachusetts, and was educated at Harvard University; but he is of English extraction, and, apart from that comparatively trivial fact, he must have many powerful incentives to a generous and sympathetic feeling towards England and Englishmen, amongst the most prominent of which will, no doubt, rank the recognition by Oxford, in 1860, of his services to historical literature, by conferring upon him the honorary degree of D.C.L. The career of Mr. Motley since his graduation at Harvard, in 1831, has been of a character eminently adapted to the development of the qualities necessary to fit him for the post he is about to occupy. Several years of European travel, of historical research, and of arduous literary labour afforded him the opportunity of gaining great experience in the operation of various forms of government and an accurate knowledge of the progress of liberty in the world. Upon his return to the United States he devoted himself to the study of jurisprudence, and in 1837 he became a member of the American Bar. Literary pursuits were, however, more congenial to his tastes than the practice of law, and since that time literature has chiefly occupied his attention. In 1839 his first volume appeared in the form of a novel, entitled "Morton's Hope." It attracted favourable notice on account of the admirable sketches of German life it contained. A second novel, entitled "Merry Mount," appeared ten years later. During the interval he contributed to several of the better class of American periodicals, and published one or two anonymous works. It was not, however, until 1856 that he became known to the world as an historian of the highest order. In that year his "History of the Rise of the Dutch Republic" was issued, and was at once recognised as the work of a master-hand. It has passed through several editions, both in England and in America, has been translated into French by Guizot, and has been published in the German and Dutch languages. A part of his sequel to that much-admired work was issued in 1860, under the title of "The History of the United Netherlands from the Death of William the Silent to the Synod of Dordt," and the concluding volumes followed in 1865. The materials placed at his disposal were plentiful, and the ground



THE HON. JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY, THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER IN LONDON.

almost untrodden. The relations of the Dutch Republic with England, France, Belgium, and Spain, as shown in the State records to which Mr. Motley was admitted by the courtesy of the respective Governments of those countries, form the subject of a story which Mr. Motley has forcibly and concisely told, and Eng-

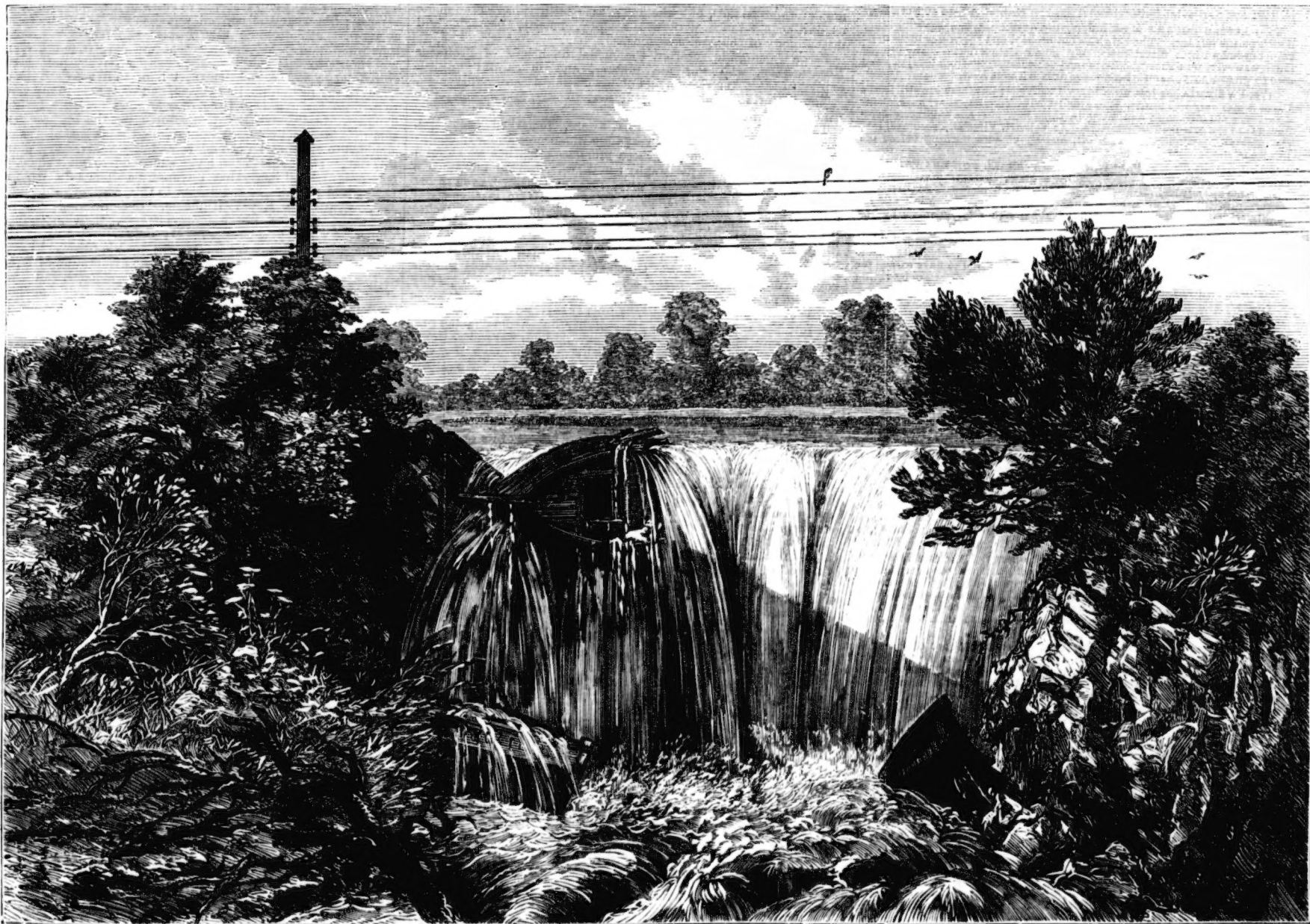
lish readers in particular are indebted to him for bringing to light many new facts in relation to the designs of Spain upon England in 1588. In addition to these great works many other historical and biographical papers which have emanated from Mr. Motley have aided in the enrichment of our stores of knowledge.

But it must not be supposed that Mr. Motley is purely and simply a literary man. He has received a liberal education in the school of modern politics. In 1841, when he was only twenty-seven years of age, Daniel Webster, then Secretary of State, appointed him Secretary of the United States Legation at St. Petersburg, and in 1861 he was appointed Minister to the Austrian Court, which position he occupied until the occurrence of the McCracken scandal in 1867. In tendering his resignation, Mr. Motley censured, in a formal reply to Mr. Seward's celebrated diplomatic circular, the means adopted to bring the foreign representatives of the country into public odium, and his independent action was warmly commended. As regards Mr. Motley's views respecting English politics nothing need now be said; but whatever course he may be instructed to pursue with regard to the questions now pending between this country and America, we feel assured that he will be animated by an earnest desire to maintain and strengthen the friendship which binds the two nations.

BURSTING OF A CANAL.

EMBANKMENT AT WARWICK.

THE accompanying illustration shows the scene of an alarming accident which occurred at Warwick on the afternoon of Sunday, the 16th inst. During the previous week, Mr. Baylis, the contractor to the Warwick local board, had made arrangements to carry a main sewer beneath that portion of the embankment of the Warwick and Napton canal which lies beneath the aqueduct and Emscote Mill. During Whitsun week the canal is usually closed to public traffic, and Mr. Baylis hoped to finish his work during the time the water could be drawn off. He appears to have cut away the embankment or otherwise weakened the puddling, for soon after four o'clock on that Sunday afternoon the embankment gave way before the pressure of water on the low level of the canal, and the flood poured through a fissure, some 40 ft. wide, into the open meadows and gardens beneath, on its way to the Avon. The consternation and excitement of the inhabitants of the valley was extreme, as a considerable time necessarily elapsed before the appliances for stemming the flow of water in the canal could be made available. The waste of water was immense, and it did a large amount of damage to the crops over which it passed. A large canal boat was carried into the gap and was broken in pieces by the force of the water.



BURSTING OF THE EMBANKMENT OF THE WARWICK AND NAPTON CANAL AT WARWICK.—(FROM A SKETCH BY T. BURGESS).

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY was duly celebrated on Monday by rejoicings and salutes at Windsor and other places.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has kindly consented to lay the first stone of the enlargement of the Earlwood Asylum for Idiots, Redhill, Surrey, on Monday, June 28, and the annual and summer fête and summer entertainment will take place the same day.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK arrived at Marlborough House on Monday, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince and Princess met his Royal Highness at the Charing-cross Railway terminus.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has removed from St. James's-square to Fulham Palace, where all communications should be addressed to his Lordship.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL will preside at the annual dinner of the Cobden Club, which will take place in the month of July. The exact day is not yet fixed.

CARDINAL BONAPARTE is expected shortly in Paris. It is this prelate, report says, who will preside over the religious ceremonies, on Aug. 15, at Ajaccio, on the occasion of the centenary of Napoleon I.

MR. REVERDY JOHNSON and family left Southampton last Saturday morning, in the steamer Oslo, for Baltimore.

MAZZINI has left Lugano for London. The state of his health is declared to be satisfactory.

THE FRENCH DERBY was run on Sunday. Count Lagrange's Consul won easily by two lengths. Fourteen horses took part in the race.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL has amended the Bankruptcy Bill by abolishing the district courts altogether and at once.

MADAME ROSSINI is about to part with her interest in all the unpublished compositions of the great master. They are valued at more than 50,000*fr.*

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE has ruled that the United States Government cannot collect income tax from foreigners who hold its bonds, and that the sums already collected must be refunded.

TAMBERLIK, the singer, it seems, has not opened a manufactory of arms at Madrid. It is his brother, Achille, who is chief of the establishment in question.

THE INDIA MUSEUM, having been removed from Fife House to the new India Office, is now reopened for public inspection.

THAT THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM is rapidly rising in popular favour is indicated by the fact that during Whitsun week, this year, 40,868 persons visited the institution, as against an average of 21,709 in corresponding weeks of previous years.

CLEVEDEN, the beautiful residence of the Duchess of Sutherland on the banks of the Thames, near Maidenhead, and where her Majesty the Queen, a year or two back, made a short sojourn, is, it is understood, about to pass into the hands of Lord Grosvenor, who is said to have purchased it from the Duke of Sutherland.

A PAINTED GLASS WINDOW is now being exhibited in Berlin, which is described as a favourable specimen of the progress made by this art in Germany during the present century. It is the work of Professor Teschner, and is intended for the cathedral of Aix-la-Chapelle.

THE TRIENNIAL CHORAL FESTIVAL OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY will be held in Westminster Abbey, on Wednesday next, June 2. Dean Stanley will preach, and the society will provide its own choir from the well-known training-colleges of St. Mark's and Battersea, Mr. Hellmore acting as precentor.

A NEW JOURNAL is about to be published in the Italian capital under the name of *Il Punto d'Onore*, and is to be the official organ of a society established last year in Florence for the purpose of putting down duelling by instituting a tribunal of honour for the adjustment of disputes at present settled by arms.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE will commence its meeting for the present year at Exeter, on Aug. 18 next, under the presidency of George G. Stokes, M.A., D.C.L., Sec. R.S., Lucasian Professor of Mathematics in the University of Cambridge.

THE CASE AGAINST CAPTAIN HUNT, of Boyton House, Wilts, who fought with the sheriff's officers who went to arrest him, and fired at one of them, has been dismissed, on the ground that the evidence failed to prove that the pistol was discharged with intent to shoot the officer.

MR. P. B. PHILLIPS, son of the late Dr. Samuel Phillips, of the *Times*, who achieved considerable success as a reader, at the Crystal Palace and the Egyptian Hall, is announced to read at the Eyre Arms, St. John's-wood on Monday evening next, the 31st inst.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE IN FRANCE has authorised the admission of Dinneford's fluid magnesia for sale in that country, so that our neighbours, who are doubtless not less affected than ourselves with indigestion and its troublesome results, will be able to appreciate the value of this popular remedy.

THE NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL will commence on Monday evening, Aug. 30. The principal vocalists already engaged are Mdlle. Titiens, Mdlle. Ilma di Murska, Madame Trebelli, Mdlle. Cherer-Talbot; Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Cummings, Signor Bettini, Mr. Santley, and Signor Foli. Mr. Benedict will once more act as conductor. The approaching festival will be the sixteenth triennial musical gathering held at Norwich.

TWO LITTLE BOYS AT MABRO', having quarrelled, one gave the other a kick on the left leg. The skin was not broken, and there was little to be seen beyond a slight discoloration not larger than a florin. The injured child, however, was subsequently found to be suffering from lockjaw, and died in great agony, having been three days without food.

CIVITA VECCHIA has just been lighted with gas; but there are still in the Papal States only two towns, Rome and Civita Vecchia, that have abandoned the old oil-lamp; and even in these last gas has only been introduced into the aristocratic quarters. At Velletri, Viterbo, Frosinone, &c., the streets are still lighted with oil, and by candles burning before the images of the Madonna.

THE RETURN OF MR. FORSTER AND MR. MIALl FOR BRADFORD was celebrated last Saturday afternoon by a great open-air demonstration, which was attended by about 30,000 persons. Both members addressed the assembly in speeches of a congratulatory character. Mr. Miall and his family have since been presented with handsome testimonials by the ladies of Bradford.

ALDERMAN HEGARTY, Mr. O'Sullivan's successor, was sworn in last Saturday as Mayor of Cork, and entered on his duties. This gentleman is a moderate Liberal in politics, and Mr. O'Sullivan is said to have earned for himself the hearty detestation of many of his former supporters by voting for him instead of for the "nationalist" candidate, Mr. Nagle.

THE WIDOW BEGUM OF NAWAB KURREEM SHAH, a brother of Tipoo Sultan, died on April 17. She had arrived at the ripe age of 114, and possessed to the last the full exercise of her faculties. She was married in the lifetime of Hyder Ali. Though so closely connected with a regal family, the late Begum experienced but little of the cares of State. She had lived rather in comfortable retirement.

THE TRIAL OF THE NORTH NORFOLK PETITION against the Conservative sitting members, Sir E. Lecon and the Hon. F. Walpole, came to an end on Monday. Mr. Justice Blackburn decided that the sitting members were duly elected, and ordered that the costs should follow the event.

THE FINE-ART COLLECTION belonging to the late Mr. Percy Dove, of Liverpool, is in course of being sold by public auction by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their Art Sale-rooms, Wellington-street, Strand. The sale, which commenced yesterday, is to be continued all next week.

THE BOARD OF TRADE have awarded a binocular glass to Captain A. Jacques Barbedeau, of the French schooner Marie Eugénie, of Dalhous, for his services to the survivors of the crew of the barque Emma, of Liverpool, whom he took from the wreck of their vessel, in the Bay of Biscay, after her collision with the Norwegian barque Fleetwing, on March 7, 1869.

ARCHDEACON CUST, in his charge to the clergy of the Archdeaconry of Craven, accepts the results of the general election and the overwhelming majorities in favour of Mr. Gladstone's "savouring" propositions as proofs that the doom of the Irish branch of the Church is sealed, and he now thinks that attention should be directed to the danger to the Church from within from those who declaim against its connection with the State as a yoke from which they would gladly be set free.

THE TITCHBORNE BARONETCY CASE was in the Court of Probate on Tuesday. A receiver has been appointed for the estate by the Court of Chancery, but he is not empowered to pay the creditors; and a creditor wished to have that defect supplied by the appointment of an administrator *pendente lite*. Both the plaintiff and defendant in the suit opposed the application. Lord Penance advised that, to avoid confusion, the application should first be made to the Court of Chancery.

THE EARL OF SANDWICH and his tenants in Limerick are at variance. His Lordship has announced his intention of selling certain of his estates, and some forty of his tenants protest against his determination as one likely to cause them great inconvenience, and as having been formed because of their inability to pay the exorbitant rents demanded of them. They conclude by suggesting that Government might try the experiment of a peasant proprietary by purchasing the property of Lord Sandwich.

MR. PEABODY leaves England, probably for the last time, to-day (Saturday). He has been for some little time past in declining health, and in yielding to a natural desire to return to his native place every one will hope that he will regain his strength, and that the symptoms which have occasioned uneasiness will pass away. Mr. Peabody has recently given additional sums of money for the benefit of various charitable institutions in America, and has declared his intention of maintaining a free library for Georgetown, adjoining Washington. The statue which the merchants of London resolved to erect to his memory is, we believe, nearly finished.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this society was held, on Monday, in the theatre of the Royal Institution, Albemarle-street. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. Among the latter were Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., president of the society (who acted as chairman), Lord Houghton, General Rigby, Sir George Bach, Sir H. Kersey, Sir Leopold M. Clintock, Sir C. Nicholson, Sir W. Rawlinson, Mr. Rassam, Baron Hochschild (Swedish Minister); Captains Inglefield, Jones, and Richard; Messrs. Arrowsmith, Addington, Galton, Major, Markham, and Robinson (of Natal); the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, M.P., and Mr. Webster.

The report stated that the total number of Fellows added to the list since the last anniversary is 175—two of whom are honorary corresponding, and of the remainder twelve have paid life compositions. Last year the number was 190, and the year previous 147. The number lost by death is 41 and by resignation 24; adding 23, which have been struck off the list for arrears of subscription, the total loss is 88, which is fewer by 23 than that of last year. The net increase in numbers during the year is 87; in 1867-8 the increase was 79, and in 1866-7, 26. The net amount of receipts was £5991 4s.; in the previous year it was £5462 7s. 11d.; in 1866, £5085 8s. 3d.; in 1865, £4905 8s. 3d. The total amount received as subscriptions in the past year was £4497 8s., and in the previous year £4294 10s. The expenditure during the year was £4156 17s. 10d., showing an increase of £213 0s. 6d. over that of 1866—an increase which is more than accounted for by the sum expended in the promotion of expeditions—namely, £558 16s. 6d., as compared with £193 11s. 2d. in the previous year. The excess of income over expenditure is £1834 6s. 2d., which, together with a portion of the balance in hand at the commencement of the year, has been added to the funded property of the society. The total amount of the funded capital at the present time is £17,250—namely, in New Three per Cents, £12,250; in India Five per Cents, £4000; and in India Debentures, £1000. The suit in Chancery in which the society has had to appear, as mentioned in the three last reports, in consequence of the legacy of £4000, bequeathed by the late Benjamin Oliveira, Esq., has terminated; but the proportion due to the society out of the remainder of the estate has not yet been received, and was not entered in the estimate for the year.

On the motion of the Hon. A. Kinnaird, seconded by Mr. Webster, the report was all but unanimously adopted, an amendment, proposed by Mr. Pim, to the effect that the report should not be adopted because there was no mention in it as to what the council intend doing with respect to the procuring of a building for the special and entire use of the society, receiving only two or three votes.

The invitations issued to the principal schools of the United Kingdom to compete for gold and bronze medals offered by the society to scholars who excelled in an examination in political and physical geographical subjects have had already some very gratifying results. Thirty-seven public schools had been invited, and twenty-one of them accepted the invitation. There were thirty-seven competitors in political geography and forty in physical. The following is the result of the competition:—The gold medal was won by Mr. H. C. Richmond, Liverpool College; and the bronze by Mr. J. D. Wilde, Manchester Grammar School, for their superiority in political geography. Mr. W. Grundy, Rossall College, gained a gold medal for physical geography; and Mr. G. W. Gent, of the same college, the bronze medal. The knowledge displayed on those two subjects by at least half the whole number of candidates was worthy of much praise. Those who showed equal excellence were Edward Crabb, Manchester Grammar School; James Henry Collins, Liverpool College; M. L. Lewis, City of London School; Harold Bailey Dixon, Westminster School; Douglas Samuel Bonflower, Rossall School; G. Grey Butler, Liverpool College; Martin Stewart, Rossall School; Alexander Stoddart Wilson, Glasgow High School; Gerald Baldwin Brown, Uppingham School; and Ernest Chester Thomas, Manchester Grammar School.

The founder's medal was awarded to Professor Nordenskiöld, of Stockholm, for having performed a leading part in designing and carrying out the late Swedish expeditions to Spitzbergen, by which not only has our knowledge of the geography of that part of the world been much improved and illustrated by an excellent new map of those islands, but whereby great additions have been made to our acquaintance with the zoology, botany, geology, and meteorology of the Arctic regions.

Baron Hochschild received the medal on behalf of Professor Nordenskiöld, who was not present, and in capital English expressed the acknowledgments of his distinguished countryman. The Victoria medal was adjudicated to Mrs. Mary Somerville, who was not present.

The president, in making this award, remarked that Mrs. Somerville had, throughout a very long life, been eminently distinguished by her proficiency in those branches of science which form the basis of physical geography; and who, having published a most able work on that science, was recently occupied, even in her eighty-ninth or ninetieth year, in solving abstruse mathematical problems. This gifted woman, who, in addition to her researches into the phenomena of the heavens and the earth, had also excelled in the arts of painting, music, and all feminine accomplishments, had, like the Oricthon of earlier days, truly earned the title of "the admirable Mrs. Somerville." On one former occasion only had the council devoted their patron's medal to a lady—namely, Lady Franklin; and as in that case the Queen was pleased to approve of the society honouring that lady for her services in ascertaining the fate and establishing the glory of her husband, so in the present instance he felt convinced that our gracious Sovereign would rejoice that her effigy should be borne by one of her own sex, who has attained such a high position amongst those who have largely advanced human knowledge.

The president, in the course of his annual address, which was, as usual, a very lengthy but exceedingly interesting document, being a full record of the researches of the society during the past years and the present, and probable future effects of its operations, said:—"Looking back to my address of 1844, when I first occupied this chair, I know too well that I no longer possess that fund of knowledge which I had then recently acquired by long journeys in Russia and the Ural Mountains and in many parts of Europe, and which imparted a freshness to my words that I cannot now command. But, though my present energies of mind and body may be ill contrasted with those of the days when I could climb high mountains and rouse you by a recital of the personal adventures of others as well as my own, I still maintain the same heartfelt devotion to your cause, whilst I am more grateful to you than ever for the kind indulgence with which you continue to receive my endeavours to serve you. In that address of a quarter of a century back, I already dwelt with pride on the high position which, after thirteen years of existence, this society had taken up. It was then that I commenced that appeal to the public which induced the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Joseph Hume, to grant us the annual sum of £500 to keep up a National Map Office. This grant, which has ever since been continued, has enabled us to prosper, free of charge for house rent. Our numbers, however, having augmented from 670 to 2300, our apartments, which we had taken on lease, though adequate to contain our books and maps, have ceased long ago to be capable of holding one third of the members who attend our evening meetings. Hence we have been indebted for some years to the liberality of the Royal Society and the University of London for permission to assemble in their great hall, now, alas! demolished; and now, through the kind consideration of the managers of the Royal Institution, we congregate in their excellent theatre. When I consider the highly useful and popular character of our body and its intimate connection with the Foreign and Colonial Offices and the Admiralty, I still entertain the hope that her Majesty's Government will, ere long, provide us with a mansion sufficient for our wants, the more so as six other scientific societies are at this moment about to be provided, at the public expense, with meeting-rooms

and apartments at Burlington House. But if this consummation should not be attained, we shall have time sufficient, before the lease of our premises in Whitehall-place expires, in September, 1871, to provide ourselves with a meeting-hall and offices of our own. Meantime I may express my regret that in the new scientific buildings now in the course of construction at Burlington House no arrangements have been made for a large common hall, containing accommodation for 500 persons. It is only in the large building of the adjacent University of London, now rising to completion, that such a capacious hall is in preparation; and, reverting to the former kind consideration of the senate of that body, I trust that we shall be permitted to hold our evening meetings in it whilst a large hall of our own is being prepared. In the mean time, advertising to our present state, I have to congratulate you on the further augmentation of our numbers, as well as upon the punctual issue of the last important and unusually large volume of the journal. When I look to the various duties, besides editing of these volumes and the *Proceedings*, which are performed by our indefatigable assistant secretary, including the recent addition of much correspondence incident to our engagement to distribute medals to the best geographical proficients of the public schools, you will all unite with me in offering our heartiest thanks and acknowledgments to Mr. H. W. Bates." Among Sir Roderick's annual obituary of deceased members, associates, fellows, &c., were the names of Lord Strangford, Chas. Frederick P. von Martins, M. de la Roquette, Sir James Brooke (Rajah of Sarawak), Sir C. Wentworth Dilke, Mr. J. H. Brooking; Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart.; Mr. J. Dickinson, Sir Edward Cunard, the Rev. S. W. King, Dr. H. N. Shaw; Sir John V. P. Johnstone, Bart.; Lords Ashburton and Calthorpe; and Sir William Clay, Bart. Respecting Dr. Livingstone's probable whereabouts, Sir Roderick said:—"In relation to the interior of Southern Africa and the probable line of research which Livingstone may have followed from the Cazembe country, near the southern end of the Lake Tanganyika, whence he dated his last letter in December, 1867, I have seen cause to modify the views I published regarding his return via Zanzibar, and to revert to the opinion I expressed on April 27, 1868. In a letter from Dr. Kirk, at Zanzibar, dated March 5, it was very disheartening to learn that by no one of the many traders in ivory who had reached the east coast from the country of Unyamwezi—which the great traveller must have traversed if he had advanced, as we supposed, by the eastern shore of the Lake Tanganyika—had a scrap of intelligence been received respecting him. The theory which I have now formed to account for this entire want of information is, that he has quitted the eastern region entirely, and has been following the waters which flow from the western side of the lake. These will lead him necessarily across a large unknown region, to emerge, I trust, at some port on the western coast. In this case, being in a country the inhabitants of which have no intercourse with the Zanzibar territory, we can never more expect to learn any tidings of him from the eastern seaboard. We already know, however, that he had been living with some very hospitable and intelligent Arabs in the interior, and from them he may have learnt that the Lake Tanganyika was really barred up at its northern end by mountains through which its waters could not flow into the Albert Nyanza of Baker. Or he may, indeed, have satisfied himself by measurement that the altitude of the Tanganyika was of about the same height as that determined by Burton and Speke, and therefore much lower than the equatorial lakes. In either case he would abandon the northern search which, at our last anniversary, I believed he might make. Being aware that he was in good health and spirits when he last wrote, and satisfied with his kind reception by the Arab traders, I can see no ground whatever for despondency; and, in the absence of all other information, I suggest that he has been following the waters which are laid down upon the old map of Duarte Lopez, prepared in the end of the sixteenth century, and that he will successfully emerge from Africa on the same coast as that where he terminated his first great traverse of South Africa."

Sir R. Murchison, after being re-elected president, said:—"As my health and life during the term of two years, for which you have again elected me, cannot be relied upon, if, at the end of the first of these two years, I should find that I am incapacitated to serve you with the same zeal as heretofore, you will, I am sure, permit me to retire with your thanks for my devotion to your cause. In truth, I had resolved to cease to hold office at this anniversary; but when the council unanimously urged me to remain at my post, and declared that I must be found in this chair at a time when it may be expected that my dear friend Livingstone will return to this country, acquiescence on my part became a sacred duty; and so, Gentlemen, I hope to live to see the ardent hopes of the British public realised, and to be able on my own part to preside for a second time over a grand national Livingstone banquet. Lastly, Gentlemen, it affords me the highest gratification to inform you that our vice-patron, the Prince of Wales, has signified to me that he would attend the anniversary dinner of this day. The words in the letter addressed to me evince such a true geographical spirit that I transcribe them as a most encouraging and satisfactory conclusion to this address:—"I can assure you," writes his Royal Highness, "that nothing will interest me more, or give me greater pleasure, than attending this dinner at which you preside. My only regret will be that our mutual friend, Sir Samuel Baker, will not be present. I have taken great interest in the grand project of the exploration of Equatorial Africa which is to be effected under his guidance, and I heartily wish him all success." This language of the Heir Apparent may well be recorded in our volumes, as our eminent medallist, Sir Samuel Baker himself, has told me that it was mainly through the active personal exertions of the Prince of Wales that the Viceroy of Egypt was led to carry out in a munificent manner this great and laudable undertaking."

A vote of thanks to Sir Roderick for presiding concluded the business.

In the evening the anniversary dinner of the society took place at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's—Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., the president of the society, in the chair. On the right of the chairman sat his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Sutherland, Sir H. Holland, Sir F. Grant, Sir H. Rawlinson, and Admiral Sir G. Back. On the left of the chairman were Prince Hassam (son of the Viceroy of Egypt), the Marquis of Huntley, Lord H. Hervey, Baron Hochschild (the Swedish Minister), Baron Bunsen, and General Sir W. Knollys. Amongst others present were Professor Huxley, Professor Ramsay, Sir N. Kemball, General Sir C. Fox, the Hon. G. Fitzclarence, Sir G. Grey, the Marquis of Fontanelli; Mr. Bonwick, of Melbourne; Professor Owen, Sir W. Yardley, Mr. J. H. Murchison, &c. Among the speakers were the Prince of Wales, Sir R. Murchison, Professors Owen and Huxley, the Duke of Sutherland, Dr. W. H. Russell, Captain Grant, &c.

THE DETECTION OF IRISH MURDERS.—At a meeting of the magistrates of Westmeath, after the murder of Mr. Ankettell, station-master at Mullingar, the following suggestions were unanimously agreed to, and they have since been presented to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland:—1. To extend the laws which authorise compensation for malicious injuries to property to compensation for malicious injuries to the person. 2. To levy the compensation by a house tax from all classes of occupiers in the district concerned, and to let it be collected specially by the police. 3. To give the Executive the power at once of enabling the magistrates and constabulary of any district, upon requisition setting forth the necessity of the case, after information on oath, to search all suspected places at any time for arms (whether license has been given to the parties or not), as well as for documents that might lead to the detection of any conspiracy to intimidate or murder; and the power of arresting parties strongly suspected of participation in such crimes, under warrant of the Lord Lieutenant, without relief of Habeas Corpus. 4. To organise a detective force for the several districts, such force having been found available in the Fenian conspiracy; and, further, to intrust resident magistrates with funds for the purpose of acquiring information of intended as well as perpetrated crimes. 5. To levy the rate charged when extra police are sent down to any district in consequence of outrage, in the same way as we have suggested for the compensation for injuries to the person."

THE DERBY.

PRETENDER, who won the Two Thousand a few weeks back, on Wednesday succeeded in carrying off the "blue ribbon of the turf" at Epsom. Pero Gomez came in second, and The Drummer third. Twenty-two ran. The traditional ill-luck of Fordham, who appears able to win any race except a Derby, attended him on this occasion, and he brought in Martyrdom without a place. The weather was of a highly favourable character; the copious rain of the previous night had effectually laid the dust, and a cool breeze prevented any inconvenience from the heat. The Prince and Princess of Wales honoured the race with their presence.

Within a few minutes of the time set down Mr. Manning accomplished the weighing out of the twenty-two runners, and immediately after the telegraph-board supplied the required information to the impatient visitors. During the interim the levée of the favourites in the paddock was the largest seen for many years, and embraced some of the very best judges of a thoroughbred in the kingdom, who, of course, as each passed in review, differed as to conformation and condition. Shortly after, Martin Starling having taken them in charge, they appeared on the course and paraded past the Stand, with the exception of the Middleham three and Alenstock, who were saddled at Tattenham Corner. Belladrum alone evoked a recognition from the public such as is seldom met with but by a winner on his return, which gave increased confidence to his backers. At the second attempt Mr. McGeorge was enabled to lower his signal, and to the surprise of the spectators the cry of "They're off!" proclaimed the commencement of the contest, in which the colours of Neuchatel with Lord Hawthorn were seen prominently in the van, the pair being engaged to ensure a pace for their respective champions, in the rear of whom followed The Egean, Border Knight, De Vere, Thorwaldsen, Pretender, and Ryshworth in a body. To these succeeded The Drummer, Duke of Beaufort, Alenstock, Rupert, and Defender, heading the next division, and at the head of the last-named were King Cophetua and Ladas, the rear being brought up by Belladrum, Martyrdom, and Pero Gomez, the latter, evidently unprepared for the start, beginning but slowly. Before Sherwood Cottage was passed, Wells, on Pero Gomez, had quitted his companions, and when fairly under way had regained his position, and at the furze was seen with his stable companion on the side of the second division, which at this period was headed by the favourite, Thorwaldsen, Border Knight, The Drummer, and Duke of Beaufort, who, as they passed the milepost, closed up, and ran in company within a couple of lengths of the leaders; Ryshworth, at the same time, having taken his place on the side of Alenstock and Rupert, followed by Martyrdom and Ladas. They ran in these positions to the bend for home, when Neuchatel, who had been for some time in difficulties, gave way, and Lord Hawthorn was then left with the lead, closely pressed by The Egean, Pretender, Thorwaldsen, and Border Knight, at the heels of whom, but wide on their right, came Duke of Beaufort, Pero Gomez, and The Drummer, Ryshworth, with Rupert, holding forward positions on the lower ground. The issue at this point became most exciting, for on crossing the tan road Lord Hawthorn, having performed his allotted task, dropped away beaten. The Egean, fluttering in the front for a few strides, was then added to the beaten division, and Pretender assumed the lead, followed by Thorwaldsen, Duke of Beaufort, and Pero Gomez; but unfortunately the last three closed and came in collision with such force as to knock Duke of Beaufort on to his nose and knees, nearly upsetting Cannon, Wells also being most materially affected by the scuffle. This misfortune gave Pretender an additional advantage, and, as they approached the distance, The Drummer came through and took his place at the girls of the favourite, and for a few strides appeared to have the best of it, the pair being followed on each side by Ryshworth, Duke of Beaufort, and Pero Gomez; but half way up Ryshworth was disposed of, and Pero Gomez, having headed The Drummer as they neared the enclosure, now challenged the favourite, whom he neared as they reached the Stand, while the issue was watched with the most intense excitement; Pretender, tiring at the finish, enabled Wells, with a well-timed effort, to reach his quarters, but, failing to improve that position, Pero Gomez was defeated in the last stride by the shortest of heads. The Drummer was beaten by a length for third place; and close up came Duke of Beaufort, Ryshworth, and Rupert, nearly abreast. Then followed, at wide intervals, Alenstock, Martyrdom, King Cophetua, Thorwaldsen, and Perry Down, who pulled up lame; whipped in by Defender, De Vere, Ehus, and Tenedos; Belladrum and Ladas trotting in last, some distance in the rear of everything. Time, as taken by Benson's chronograph, 2 min. 52½ sec. Time of 1868 race, 2 min. 43½ sec.

THE HORSE SHOW.—The horse show at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, opens to the public on Saturday morning (this day), when the judges will commence their examination for the purpose of awarding the prizes, commencing with the class of thoroughbred stallions, of which there are on this occasion thirty-one, many of them, if their pedigrees are to be relied upon, of the purest blood. The show altogether will present a greater diversity than any previous show. Among the horses and ponies are several piebalds, creams, duns, and bays, said to be remarkable as highsteppers, whilst there is the celebrated Russian trotting stallion, from Count Orloff's stud, which will frequently exhibit its capabilities in the ring in Russian harness. The arrangements for rating the powers of the animals and affording amusement to the visitors also are somewhat changed. The leaping will include a 14-foot water jump, and will occupy two days, the latter arrangement being substituted for one day's jumping, in order to meet the requirements occasioned by the unusually large number of entries. The judging will also be extended over two days, for the sufficient reason that the judges will be unable to complete their labours in one day. The thoroughbreds and hunters will be taken to-day (the half-crown day), and the other classes on Monday (the first shilling day).

REFUGES FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—The anniversary of this institution was celebrated, on Tuesday, evening in Exeter Hall, when there was a very large audience. In the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the chair was occupied by Mr. Deputy Assistant Judge Payne, supported by the Rev. Canon Nibbet, the Rev. W. Brock, Mr. J. H. Fordham, Mr. W. M. Bullivant, Captain Coner, R.N., and numerous friends and supporters of the various branches of the institution. These refugees, it may be stated, were established in July, 1852, for the reception of poor boys and girls. At first only six boys could be received; but as funds came in the number was increased, until upwards of 500 boys and girls are now under the care of the institution. All the children are fed, lodged, clothed, educated, and trained for service at home or in the colonies. Last year there were gathered from the streets into the refuge no less than 369 boys; 53 girls were also received. At the present time there are nearly 200 boys on board the Chichester, being educated and trained for the Royal Navy and merchant service, 160 boys in the refuge, and 70 at the country home, and upwards of 100 inmates in the two refuges for girls. The children come from all parts of London and the provinces, and not a few have been born in different parts of the world, and in time been left in London utterly destitute. In the first three months of the present year upwards of 90 homeless and destitute boys had been admitted to the benefits of the institution. The distressing statements made by some of them were most harrowing. How they had kept alive was a marvel, for the condition of some was so appalling that without doubt they would have died had they not found a home in the refuge. All the five branches of the institution are now in excellent working order. It is the largest institution of its kind in the metropolis. The income for the first three months of the year had been most encouraging. The amount required for the new building at Bisleigh, by the kindness of a lady who had presented a sum of £500, had been raised; and now there was only the furniture to be paid for. The committee believed that this sum would be forthcoming. The maintenance of the 600 children was the great matter which pressed on the committee; for this, and the support of the several day and night ragged schools, required at least £200 a week. The committee earnestly hoped that the liberality of the Christian public would enable them vigorously and successfully to pursue their work. Mr. Williams, the indefatigable secretary, having detailed the above facts, further stated that the year's industrial work done by the boys and girls, together with the value of boots in stock, amounted to £1392 17s. 6d. The total receipts amounted to £22,805 0s. 4d. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by a choir of 600 children, under the direction of Mr. Proudman, singing a number of musical pieces. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, the Rev. W. Brock, the Rev. G. W. McCre, Admiral Hall, and other gentlemen in support of the objects of the institution.

Literature.

That Boy of Norcott's. By CHARLES LEVER. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a pale imitation of the sensational novel of the period. Although it departs as far from nature in the delineation of character and from probability in the chain of events as any of such productions do, it presents not the faintest appearance of a plot. The book, of course, is written with that ease, and grace, and perfect command of language which have always been the characteristics of the author. To say that it is greatly inferior to Lever's early Irish novels—which were so much fuller of fun, frolic, and dash than of improbability, and of that there was no lack—would be entirely superfluous. Possibly the author of the present volume might still be competent to strike his former vein; but the fashion of light literature is now utterly changed, and the "Jack-Hinton" "Charles-O'Malley" style would not at present find a market; so Mr. Lever seems compelled to minister to the morbid appetite engendered by the sickly and palled taste of the class of readers represented by the insatiable devourers of sensation novels. We do not, of course, speak at present of that higher class of works which successfully represent the True, the Natural, and the Beautiful, and by which the names of Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, A. Trollope, the authoress of "John Halifax, Gentleman," and others have been illustrated in the literature of fiction. We regret, however, to say "That Boy of Norcott's" cannot be placed in this higher class of productions, but must be relegated to the lower one, in which it takes, too, a rather low place as being deficient in the essential requisite of sensationalism—namely, a plot as intricate as it is absurd. Indeed, the story, as we have said, has no plot of any kind.

We may easily sketch the story. Sir Roger Norcott, a man of property, marries a woman of low rank in order to annoy his friends and create a sensation. This was in the south of Ireland, where he was quartered with his regiment. He gets tired of his wife, and to irritate her turns Roman Catholic. A separation is agreed upon, and the only child, Digby, "the Boy," is given into his mother's keeping until he should be twelve. With her he acquires all manner of accomplishments, and in due time is taken to his father, who lives at Brussels in great style with a few friends, or rather parasites, as guests. The constant and active motive of Sir Roger's conduct is eccentricity, a desire to contemn the world and to assert a lofty dignity and superiority over everyone else. He hates his son's learning and accomplishments, for he wishes the youth to be a gentleman, like himself. He never corresponds with his wife, to whom, however, he allows a small alimony. Digby gets into disgrace at a village festival on the occasion of celebrating his sixteenth birthday, and is, with his tutor, sent abroad. Soon afterwards Sir Roger is ruined by his lavish expenditure, and goes off with the wife of one of his friends, leaving Digby in Germany, quite destitute, for the tutor has hastened home. Our hero finally gets a situation as clerk in a house of business at Fiume, the head of which is one Oppovich, a Jew, who accidentally discovers his rank and misfortunes, and with whose daughter, Sarah, Digby falls in love, not knowing at the time that his passion is reciprocated. The house falls into difficulties, and young Norcott is sent into Hungary to negotiate some important business with a Count Hunyadi. At the Schloss of this magnate he distinguishes himself by his admirable Crichton-like accomplishments—singing, dancing, languages, fencing, and general savoir vivre. Here, too, he meets with Madame Clermont, the lady whom his father ran off with, and who is endeavouring to induce Sir Roger to repudiate the legality of his marriage with Digby's mother. Sir Roger himself is a guest of the Count, but has, with him, been some days absent on a hunting party. Word comes to the Schloss that the English gentleman has been grievously hurt by a wild boar, and Digby, who at once suspects by the presence of Madame Clermont that the Count's ill-fated guest is his father, hastens to where he lies. Sir Roger, on the point of death, recognises him, declares him to be his legitimate son and heir, and dies. Madame Clermont disappears, and Digby hastens to meet his mother. From inquiries he learns that her yearly allowance, unpaid by his father since he left Brussels, has been continued anonymously by Oppovich and his daughter. The Fiume house is now itself ruined; and, of course, young Norcott proceeds without delay to see Sarah, whom he makes his wife.

Such is the story, and whether there is in it any probability the reader may judge. As to the character of Sir Roger, it certainly does more credit to the author's imagination than to his fidelity in portraying men as they are. That of his "Boy," with his astonishing accomplishments and scarcely less wonderful adventures, is hardly nearer to nature. Of the minor characters introduced little need be said. Lady Norcott is the only personage in the book whom the reader feels to act and think as people do naturally. "That Boy of Norcott's," however, will not want readers, partly from the charm of the style and in many passages the brilliancy of the writing, partly from curiosity, and partly from what may be termed the attraction of repulsion.

On the Extravagant Use of Fuel in Cooking. By FRED EDWARDS, jun. London: R. Hardwicke.

This is a short practical treatise on the most important operation of domestic life, and the one which, on the whole, affords the largest scope for household economy. Even in the best kitchen-ranges, and batteries of cuisine with all the latest improvements, a woeful waste of fuel is the rule, although, undoubtedly, immense progress has been made since Count Rumford first undertook to teach the nations how to economise heat in cooking. The French, either from necessity or natural aptitude—we believe the latter—know a great deal better than we do not only the mode of making the most of their food but also of their fuel. Will the English ever turn serious attention to this important matter? The writer of the essay before us is far from being sanguine on that point. Persons who have only their skill to rely upon, he says, have no chance for their improvements, and are sure to be out of pocket, while manufacturers almost invariably find amendments in the existing practice to be unprofitable. Without looking for the explanation in any peculiar idiosyncrasy of our nation, the truth probably is that a saving of fuel in the kitchen (or anywhere else) is a matter beneath the care or notice of the affluent classes, and one beyond the power of those who are not blessed with good incomes. As kitchens are constructed and fitted-up and flues arranged by the builders, so must an ordinary middle-class or working man's family accept them. Some good, however, may be accomplished by such publications as the present, the directions given in which are plain enough, and the plans well considered. The treatise is accompanied by a number of outline designs of "kitcheners," ranges, grates, boilers, flues, &c.; but these improvements seem too exclusively intended for the use of the well-to-do part of the community. Could not some means be suggested of inducing the builders who are covering the outskirts all round London with houses worth from £20 to £40 a year to change their stereotyped style of kitchen, and introduce arrangements which would secure cleanliness and economy of fuel and of trouble without increased cost? The question is well worth the attention of philanthropists who have time and money at their disposal.

Iona, and other Sonnets, &c. By WADE ROBINSON. Dublin: Moffatt and Co.

Without intruding on Leigh Hunt's "Book of the Sonnet" it may be asked of sonneteers why they are almost invariably the dullest companions alive? Why should they not carry out the idea of "infuse riches in a little room," and give, amongst other adornments, a touch of gaiety amidst the gloom? Why should sonnets be the only dark poetic clouds which have no silver linings? Why should not the lover, when writing his sonnet on his mistress's eyebrow, give at least one bright flash from the

beautiful eye beneath it? But no one will answer the questions nor take any advice that might be offered. Sonneteers are seldom anything unless dull—but then they are profound. Mr. Wade Robinson only differs from his fellows in this, that he is less dull than most, and less profound than many. He deals with the past, the present, death, nature, and the state of man generally; and sometimes he is "cradled into poetry" by such "wrongs" as a dead infant, a wounded sparrow, or the Abergeldie disaster. From the latter class a specimen may be taken, "On the Death of the Rev. F. W. Robertson":—

Broke is the golden bowl of his great heart,
Loosed is the silver chord of his pure brain;
Not all the world of wisest, subtlest art,
Could flush that ivory clay with rosy life again.
His heart which moved like God's, at others' pain;
His eye, which nursed a thunderbolt for wrong;
His tongue, which need itself to mercy's song,
Not even cold and mute can now with us remain.
O thus, sad earth, for evermore compelled
To yield the ripeness of thy wise and just!
O knell of knells, the hollow pattering dust
Upon the empty breast that truth and goodness held!
Death took his life, the grave consumes his form,
But he in loving hearts is safe from blast and worm.

This specimen is selected principally because anything honest and loving about F. W. Robertson will always command a sensible reader's attention, whilst such novelties as "Life" and "Death" might not. Mr. Robinson writes well. There is curious versification in the above, and also three curious words, which we have marked in italics. Even so humble a form of expression as prose would have demanded "broken," "loosened," and "wedded" under the circumstances. But perhaps it is the privilege of Dublin poetry not to be prosy.

Echoes in Plant and Flower Life. By LEO H. GRINDON. London: F. Pitman.

Mr. Grindon has somewhat overstepped his mark in these "Echoes." Everybody loves trees and flowers; and, amongst many readers, we have enjoyed some of Mr. Grindon's former writings; but it would require Dr. Lindley himself, on any Sunday or any Saint's day, to enjoy this long and dismal sermon on the beauties and glories of plant and flower life. It does not "profess to consist of anything more than memoranda and observations, from a poet's point of view, respecting a certain class of botanical facts;" and it seems to be hoped that, when the poet has fairly found them out, the man of science may step in and classify the fact in a business-like manner. Those sentimentalists who indulge in botany may like the information as it stands; but the scientific world will do wisely to wait. It is pretty enough to hear that "to the world, in its totality, plants are what woman is to home—wherefore their sweet beauty; their pretty tendrils, emblems of clinging and confiding affections; their calm unselfishness, their immortal solace." Pretty enough—say, on the fourteenth of February, and well smothered, at the price, in Cupids and paper-lace. But when it comes to the generation of plants and the generation of the human species, the moralising becomes not dull, because it is ludicrous, and can only be described by the one word which expresses silliness—"gushing." The reverence and seriousness with which Mr. Grindon wishes the world to believe that daisies fold up their petals at night, &c., and what a miraculously good thing it is for them that they do so, is a charming piece of innocence. Of course, all things are adapted to their condition in life—or, at least, we shall go on believing so until we see a salmon prancing in the heart of the jungle, or a parrot tipping sea-water with the mermaids in their caves.

Pioneers of Civilisation. By the Author of "Crimson Pages," "Lives of Eminent Men," &c. With Portraits and other Illustrations. London: James Hogg and Son.

From the title of this little volume—"Pioneers of Civilisation: the Soldier, the Adventurer, the Explorer, the Man of Peace, the Trader, the Settler, and the Missionary"—as well as from a group of portraits of such men as Cook, Penn, and Clive, a series of commonplace biographies might have been expected. But, happily, the volume is no such thing, but a series of essays, mixed up with some slight biographical matter, on subjects which cannot fail to suggest themselves. Taking the first of these, "The Soldier-Pioneer," we find some good writing on the subject of physical force. An admirable contrast is drawn between the good results of the Roman conquest in Britain and the conquests of Sesostris over half the lands which he knew. Just now, when much is said about certain institutions being "badges of conquest," it is well to remember that there are worse conditions of society than being conquered; but, of course, the badge should not be made degrading. The charity-boy is about as thoroughly conquered as anybody can well be in his childhood; but after a time, when he is fit to make his way decently, the badge is always removed, and he becomes the conqueror, or patron, of other charity-boys in his turn.

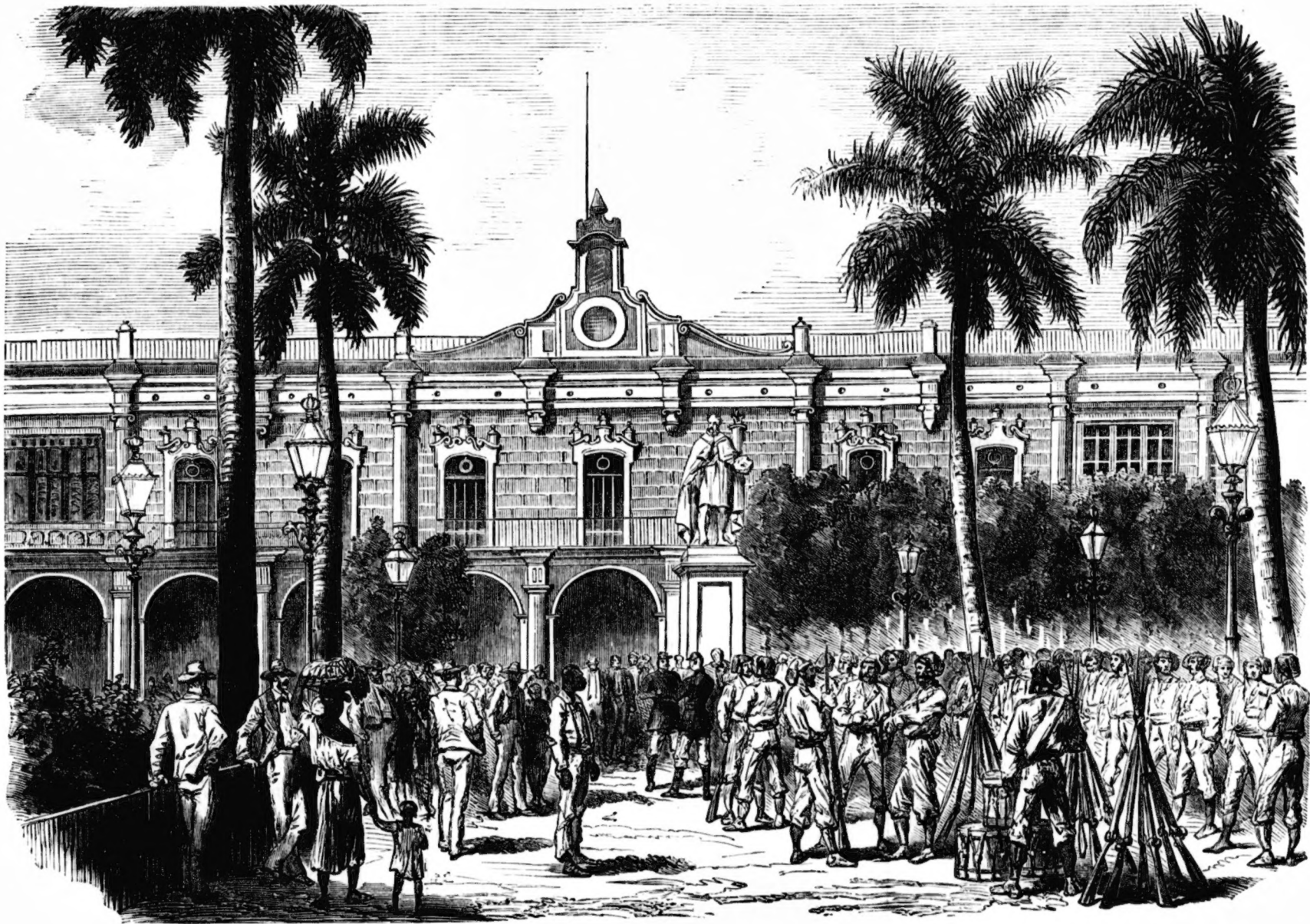
"Pioneers of Enterprise and Daring" treats of the great Peninsular commanders who conquered the New World, and, to get close at home, of Sir James Brooke in Borneo, who, rather, deserved to have been placed in the ranks which we have just left. The various trading companies are the subject of an interesting chapter; and another, on the exploring pioneers, from Drake and Raleigh to Livingstone and Baker, records an almost uninterrupted series of triumphs of Englishmen. Any further description of this well-arranged and well-written little work must be unnecessary. If boys—for we must not speak of men—of the present days are like those of the past, it will be in no want of crowds of eager readers.

THE TRADES UNION BILL.—The various trade societies have determined to hold an aggregate meeting of trade unionists of London and the provinces, in Exeter Hall, on June 23 next. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., has consented to preside; and Mr. Mundella, M.P.; Mr. Harrison, and others will be present. The subject of this bill has been warmly taken up by the various trade societies in the provinces; at Carlisle, Warrington, Leeds, Burton-on-Trent, Sheffield, Northampton, Cheltenham, the Potteries, and, in fact, in most of the leading towns, meetings have been held, at which it has been resolved to use every means to support the bill now before Parliament, which has been introduced by Mr. T. Hughes and Mr. Mundella. In Birmingham, so desirous are the working men to give all the aid in their power to the measure that the second annual congress of trades councils and societies, which had been announced for June 21, has been postponed until Aug. 28. In Glasgow and Greenock the same feeling prevails and has been effectively expressed by the working men. In Dublin, also, the strongest approbation of the bill has been expressed; and at a public meeting held there, in the Mechanics' Institute, it was resolved to send deputations to wait upon the twenty or more members of Parliament resident in that city and neighbourhood, to urge them to support the bill. A large number of delegates from all parts of the country are expected to be present at the large meeting in Exeter Hall, which is to be held under the directions of the London Conference of Amalgamated Trades.

POISONED BY DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.—On Saturday last Captain Bowden, of the Foxdale Mines, Isle of Man, together with three miners, one of whom is named Thomas Christian, went out in search of a vein of lead which is supposed to be in the neighbourhood. After a while, feeling tired, they sat down to take rest. While sitting on the ground, Christian got hold of a shrub that was growing close to him, and pulled it out of the ground by the root. Seeing that the root was very like a carrot, he thought there would be no harm in eating some of it. He accordingly ate a portion of it, and gave a piece to each of his companions, two of whom, Captain Bowden and one of the other men, fortunately for themselves, only just tasted it. A few moments after eating the piece of root, Christian was seized with violent convulsions, and Captain Bowden and the other who had tasted the root also began to feel similar symptoms. Captain Bowden at once hurried home for the purpose of procuring an emetic, and the other man who had taken a small portion ran off to a neighbouring cottage to get some milk, which he thought would prove an antidote. Christian was thus left in the care of the fourth man, who had been sufficiently cautious not to touch the root. So deadly was the power of the poisonous plant that in less than ten minutes after Christian ate it he was a corpse. Captain Bowden and the other man have recovered to a certain extent, but they still suffer severely from the effects of the poison. The plant proved to be the deadly nightshade, *Solanum Dulcamara*.



"LANJUNAIS AT THE TRIBUNAL."—(PICTURE BY M. CHARLES-LOUIS MULLER, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION).



THE CUBA INSURRECTION: ARRIVAL OF SPANISH VOLUNTEERS IN THE PLAZA D'ARMES, HAVANNAH.

"LANJUNAIS AT THE TRIBUNAL."

THIS may be called the most striking picture in the Paris Fine-Art Exhibition of the present year, and it is certainly one of the most attractive because of its subject and the breadth and vigour of treatment with which it is executed. It represents, too, a scene from a period of history that cannot fail to interest those who look at it, whatever may be their political opinions. So that M. Charles-Louis Müller has gained a large amount of notice, and has doubtless added to his reputation, by the exhibition of this work. The work itself, however, is not of a character to command sympathy on artistic grounds. All the faces composing the crowd are too much alike in expression; and though, doubtless, the demoniac passions and fierce, brutal license of those terrible days, gave a general resemblance to the countenances of the lowest habitués of the Revolutionary Tribunal, the types could not have been all of the same kind. The figure of Marat in the picture by no means represents him as we have been accustomed to consider him, however; but Chabat, Legendre, and the younger Robespierre are well depicted. Barbaroux and Pilâtre are both there, and

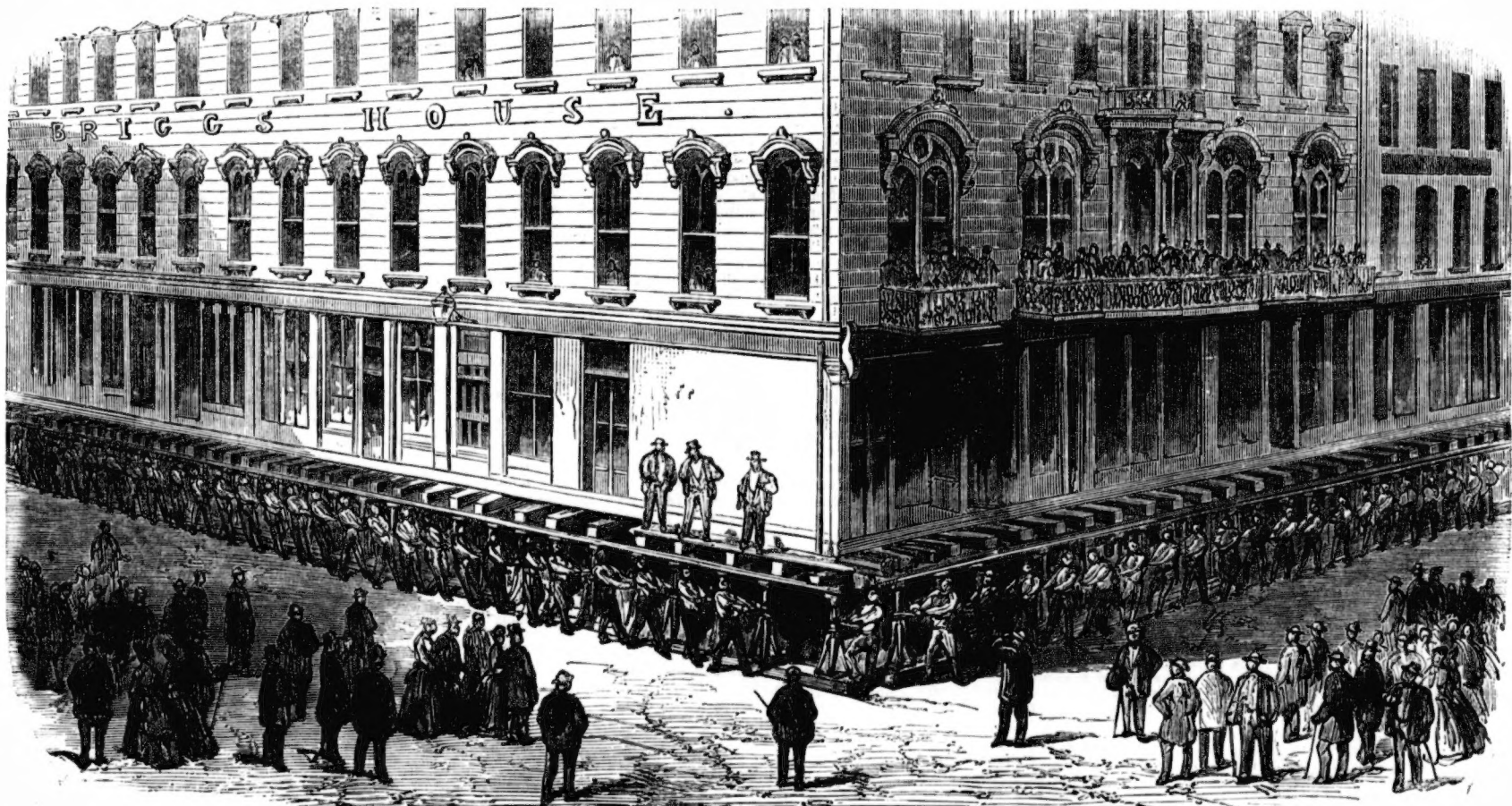
altogether the scene recalls the history of the bloody and frightful period before Danton, who hounded on the demoniac rabble, was himself condemned before that same tribunal which he had established, and carried to the guillotine, that had already drunk the blood of thousands, and nearly extinguished in the people the love of life itself.

ARRIVAL OF SPANISH VOLUNTEERS IN CUBA.

WE have already published illustrations of the assembling of the Spanish volunteers at Barcelona, previous to their departure for Havannah in order to suppress the insurrection. The Cuban question, however, is far from being completely solved. Everyone knows that Spain is anxious to keep the national authority unchanged, while it is evident that the sympathy of the United States is in favour of the republicans of the island. On the restoration of Havannah to Spain by the English, after the peace of 1793, it became once more of the greatest importance to its former possessors, who derived the greater part of the national fleet from

its great shipbuilding yards; and the introduction of railways connecting Havannah with various parts of the interior so developed the trade of the island that it is not a possession to be given up without an effort to retain it by a nation holding few colonial possessions. The streets of Havannah are so narrow, and the houses built so close upon them, that they seem to be rather spaces between the walls of houses than highways for travel. It appears impossible that the vehicles should pass abreast; yet they do so. There are constant blockings of the way. In some places awnings are stretched over the entire street from house to house, and the visitor rides under a long tent.

The Paseo, beyond the walls—a grand avenue running across the city from sea to bay—is the finest thoroughfare in Havannah. There are two carriage-drives abreast, and two roads for foot-passengers, all lined with trees in full foliage. Here you catch a glimpse of the Moro, and there of the Presidio. This is the Teatro de Tacón, and in front of a tall line of houses is or was the great French hotel and restaurant. The beds—mere canvas sacking on frames—are furnished with mosquito curtains. Visitors are



A NEW AMERICAN INVENTION: RAISING AN HOTEL AT CHICAGO.

warned not to leave their windows open to the chill morning air, and not to walk barefoot on the floor, for fear of the *chigas*—Anglicé jiggers.

Pleasure-takers go out along the Paseo at seven o'clock in the evening: volantes with ladies in full evening dress; English carriages with sober coachmen and footmen, shopping, talking, laughing, flirting, visiting—as may be seen by the numerous ceremonial parties visible through the wide, deep, open windows, grates but not glazed—billiard-rooms and cafés all bright with lights. At eight o'clock the crowd drives to the Plaza d'Armes with its blooming garden of flowers in front of the governor's palace. At the corner of this plaza, which is represented in our Engraving under the new conditions of a state of conflict, is the chapel erected over the spot where, under the auspices of Columbus, mass was first celebrated in the island. In front of the Governor's house the rank and fashion of Havannah have been wont to go in an evening to hear the band play at the "Retreta," under the shade of palm-trees and mangoes; the walks filled with promenaders—principally gentlemen; the streets around filled with carriages, in which the ladies recline to receive compliments and salutations. It may be long before this pleasant retreat is restored entirely to the pleasant custom, for the Plaza d'Armes is asserting its original name and purpose, and we have to wait for news of military occupation.

RAISING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A HOUSE AT CHICAGO.

It is not wonderful that our American cousins should indulge in tall talk, for they do big things. If civilisation mean the increased means of material convenience, and the invention of something to do everything for everybody, as far as mechanical forces are concerned, then the United States has gone ahead, and may well boast of superior progress and enlightenment. From shelling peas, paring apples, pulling off boots, milking cows, and making sausages, to building monitors, burning down hotels, erecting towns, laying down railways, "striking ile," and utilising whirlpools, they are the swiftest, smartest, and most energetic nation in the whole world for adopting all kinds of inventions and introducing the very thing that is wanted to complete the triumph of machinery. We this week publish an Engraving, illustrating one of the latest achievements of mechanical art at Chicago. It recalls to us some of the gigantic works the remains of which give us reason to regard the ancient Egyptians with a kind of awe, and to deplore modern decadence in engineering skill; for the raising of this enormous block of building seems suggestive of the combination of mechanical and accumulative human power by which it is supposed the builders of the buried cities effected the removal of those colossal monoliths which are found in the ancient palaces and temples.

The town of Chicago being, as everyone knows, on the borders of Lake Michigan, and at the mouth of the river, has been much subject to inundations, which have rendered it about the muddest commercial agglomeration of houses and public buildings in the whole United States, its streets being pretty well impassable at certain seasons of the year. It has become a question, therefore, how to overcome this intolerable state of things; and, though a township is a rapid growth in America, and the destruction of a few buildings is a trifling inconvenience, it was considered that the raising of an entire city, with a large trade in dry goods and corn, might be evaded by the ingenious expedient of raising the level of the roadways and at the same time hoisting the principal buildings an entire story above the present cellars; and so leaving them high and dry upon entirely new basements. It is to the credit of the American engineers that they have recognised the value of accumulated and co-operative hand labour in this delicate operation, which has been successfully tried on one of the great hotels. By means of 600 screwjacks, the work was completed in twenty-seven days; and an enormous building, weighing about 20,000 tons, was raised to a height of 12 ft. from its former foundations, and that without the service of the hotel being interrupted for a single hour. It must have been quite a new sensation for the large party of boarders to sit down to dinner knowing that they were being gently elevated by imperceptible gradations, and at the same time conscious that if the first architect of the hotel had not done his duty, and the surveyor had omitted to mark every flaw, the whole establishment might collapse like a house of cards.

ESCAPE OF THE MONSTER BALLOON.—An accident of a very singular kind occurred at Ashburnham Park, adjoining Cremorne Gardens, on Tuesday. The monster balloon, which people thought was safe because it was made "captive" by a thick rope, escaped, and was lost to its proprietors. This balloon had been growing in popular favour since its first establishment in the park. Scientific men had used it. Certain noblemen and others, who are known to be curious about out-of-the-way experiences, had been up in it, and some of them had the audacity to have prepared and to partake of luncheon in mid-air. The balloon was one of the largest ever made; it would contain 21,000 ft. of gas, and was calculated to carry a weight equal to 18 tons. In its construction the proprietors, who have been very unfortunate, sought to replace the balloon which was burned at the Crystal Palace last year. They had, they thought, succeeded in creating such a machine as should for years to come supply continuous entertainment to Londoners, in enabling them to take a bird's-eye view of our great capital. All their hopes and designs were frustrated by the accident of Tuesday. It appears that between four and five o'clock in the afternoon the managers inflated the balloon, and allowed it to run up until a length of about 150 ft. of rope had been paid out. No one was in the car at the time; indeed the wind was so strong that it was not considered safe to permit anyone to enter the car. Care had not been taken to preserve the rope from such sudden action as it was subjected to; it slipped from the drum to the flange of the wheel, which being sharp the rope was cut, and the balloon, rather to the astonishment of those in charge, started away, with as much suddenness almost as a ball from the mouth of a big gun. Its rapid flight was observed in almost every part of the metropolis. The balloon has been recovered, having been caught at Botolph Claydon, near Aylesbury, Bucks.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS.—A vote of £2800 on account of the Wellington Monument is to be proposed to the House of Commons this Session. The original estimate for the monument was £14,000; £10,266 has been expended upon it up to the end of 1898, leaving £3734 to be still voted. A vote will also be proposed of £667 towards the erection of a monument in Westminster Abbey to the memory of Lord Palmerston. The estimate for this monument is £2000. £1333 had been expended up to the end of 1898; the present vote, therefore, will complete the estimated amount.

"COLONIAL TARIFFS."—A valuable pamphlet has been recently issued by the Financial Reform Union, 10, Bridge-street, Westminster, containing a complete statement of the various customs tariffs of the British colonies, a table showing the duties levied upon British produce and manufactures, and an analysis of the expenditure of our exports, to procure both these pamphlets. They contain a mass of valuable information which should be in the hands of every taxpayer. The Financial Reform Union urges "a full and complete investigation into the advantages of our colonial system," and, as a preliminary to such inquiry, demands that full information be laid before Parliament of all sums of money expended out of the taxes of this country for colonial purposes. "It will then be possible to ascertain whether the expenditure incurred on behalf of these possessions is counterbalanced by any real advantage to British taxpayers, or whether it is beneficial only to that section from which the governors and other administrators whom we locate in every part of the world as representatives of the British Crown are chosen."

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE present season is less favourable to grand opera than to works, whether serious or comic, which depend for their success not on important vocal and instrumental combinations, but on the excellence with which the prima donna part is filled. Neither "Robert le Diable" nor "Guillaume Tell," as they have been lately represented, have the least chance against "Don Pasquale" with Mlle. Patti, or "Martha" with Mlle. Nilsson, in the principal character. During the past week the two brightest of contemporary stars have succeeded one another night by night. Mlle. Nilsson has appeared as Lucia and as Martha; Madame Patti, as Amina in "La Sonnambula," as Norina in "Don Pasquale," and as Rosina in the "Barber of Seville." If Amina is Madame Patti's favourite sentimental part, Rosina is certainly her best comic character; and Amina and Rosina together give a fair idea of what her ordinary dramatic range has hitherto been. She has occasionally extended it, as in the rôle of Margherita, which includes passages, and indeed whole scenes, of a purely tragic character; and Leonora, in "Il Trovatore," has more than once found an admirable representative in this most versatile artiste. Madame Patti, moreover, has lately appeared in Paris as Semiramide; and a contemporary announces that she is to be heard this season as Valentine, in "Les Huguenots." Doubtless she will be an admirable Valentine; but she might be that ten years hence, when she will, perhaps, not be so perfectly suited to the parts of Amina, Rosina, Zerlina, Adina, Norina, and all the essentially youthful, half-playful heroines whom she now represents to such perfection. For the present she can scarcely be spared from the representation of those many charming parts—with Amina distinctly prominent among the number—in which she is, and will doubtless long remain, unrivalled. In "Don Giovanni," which has been twice performed this season at the Royal Italian Opera, Madame Patti, as Zerlina, gives brightness to what, on the whole, is rather a dull representation. The part of Don Giovanni is filled by Signor Graziani, that of Don Ottavio by Signor Naudin, that of Leporello by Signor Ciampi; while Mlle. Titiens impersonates Donna Anna, and Mlle. Sinico Donna Elvira. The ideal cast of the programme for the season cannot, of course, be realised. The great vocalists have themselves to be consulted, and they are not so ready, as managers seem now and then to imagine, to sacrifice themselves individually for the sake of a perfect ensemble. In "Don Pasquale" Madame Patti, no doubt, proves herself the best Norina ever seen or heard. The part was written for Madame Griet twenty-seven years ago, but we can scarcely fancy her playing it with the lightness and vivacity of Mlle. Patti. It is quite certain, on the other hand, that the original cast of "Don Pasquale," with Grisi, Mario, Tamburini, and Lablache in the principal parts, has never been equalled, and that, just now, it cannot be approached. At the Royal Italian Opera Signor Naudin represents Ernesto, Signor Cotogni Dr. Malatesta, and Signor Bottero Don Pasquale (in which character he made his first appearance in England). Of the new comer little that is favourable can be said. Don Pasquale is not placed in any situations that are essentially comic in themselves; and if his impersonator wishes to raise a laugh, he should himself import a little humour into the representation. Last Saturday Signor Bottero reappeared, without producing much effect, as Don Basilio, in "Il Barbiere." Madame Patti, as already mentioned, played the part of Rosina—playing it and singing the music, as she always does, to absolute perfection. In the scene of the music-lesson Rosina introduced the bolero from "Les Vêpres Siciliennes," and afterwards (in response to the usual encore) "Home, Sweet Home," which, being sung with admirable simplicity and pathos, called forth loud demonstrations of enthusiasm. This representation was especially remarkable for Signor Mongini's first appearance in the part of Count Almaviva. Everyone who had heard Signor Mongini in "Guillaume Tell" knew that he was a master of the declamatory style according to Rossini; but he had not previously given evidence, as he did on this occasion, of his ability to do justice to the light, florid music of the great Italian composer.

The division of principal parts between Madame Patti and Mlle. Nilsson has been continued throughout the week. To-night (Saturday), however, after the first act of "Norma" (Mlle. Titiens in the principal part), a new opera—new, at least to England—called "Don Bucephalo," the work of Signor Cagnoni, is to be produced, with Signor Bottero in the chief character.

A question has arisen as to whether Mlle. Nilsson is properly attired when, in the first act of "Lucia di Lammermoor," she goes to her rendezvous with Edgardo in the wood, wearing a low-necked dress. Mlle. Nilsson is such a charming artist, and an artist of such high talent, that the critic who would think of finding the slightest fault with her for a real or supposed mistake in costume deserves to fall into the error into which one of our contemporaries has fallen, who describes the material of Mlle. Nilsson's dress in the said scene as pink satin, whereas it is in reality pink moire antique! This should be a warning to critics not to meddle with matters which few of them are competent to treat. We could furnish plenty of arguments in favour of the costume which Mlle. Nilsson has now adopted; and the only argument which would have much weight with us on the other side is the simple fact that it is not the one she wore when she made her first appearance as Lucia. When a first impression is strikingly favourable, nothing should be done which can possibly interfere with its good effect. Of Mlle. Nilsson's reappearance as Margherita, in "Faust," we will only, for the present, say that it gave her the opportunity of obtaining the greatest success, both as an actress and as a vocalist. Nothing can be more perfect than Mlle. Nilsson's impersonation of Göthe's simply poetical heroine.

The first of Madame Arabella Goddard's series of recitals took place on Thursday afternoon, at St. James's Hall. Madame Goddard's first concert opened with Dussak's sonata in A major (op. 43), a work in two movements only—allegro and rondo. Next came four studies by F. Hiller, Hummel, Moscheles, and Sterndale Bennett; and three fugues closed the first part. No. 1 (Albrechtsberger, in B flat) is the last of a set of six almost, if not altogether, unknown to English musicians; No. 2 (Handel, in F major, from the Suites des Pièces) and No. 3 are more familiar. The second part began with Woelfl's grand sonata in C minor. Steibelt's pastorale in G followed, pleasantly contrasting with Woelfl's sonata; and Field's nocturne in C minor (op. 42) followed by Chopin's valse in A flat brought the recital to a close. The vocalist was Miss Annie Edmonds, who sang several charming songs in an agreeable and unaffected style. The audience was exceptionally distinguished, and comprised a host of celebrities, among whom may be mentioned Mlle. Christine Nilsson, Madame Norman-Neruda, Mr. Browning, Sir M. Costa, Signor Mongini, Signor Arditi, Herr Rubinstein, M. Vieuxtemps, and Mr. Cipriani Potter. The concert was from every point of view successful, and every one must admit that a more interesting selection of pianoforte music could not have been presented. Madame Arabella Goddard is an artist of the very highest merit, and executes pianoforte music of all kinds to perfection; but her complete mastery of the instrument is not more remarkable than her intimate knowledge of all the most important works, no matter by what master or in what style, that have been written for it. Madame Goddard's second recital is fixed for June 9.

The "Claribel" concert at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday (last week) attracted an unusually large audience; which, considering the immense popularity enjoyed by Claribel's songs in private, was not astonishing. Claribel possessed in an eminent degree the gift of melody; and in that, and in the unaffected simplicity of her accompaniments, no doubt, lay the secret of her success. The said simplicity was not in her case a sign of want of ingenuity, or of such learning as may only too readily be acquired, but was positively a proof of good taste. Claribel's songs are the graceful productions of an accomplished and happily-endowed amateur, quite without pretension but by no means without charm. A contemporary calls attention, with an air of injured reverence, to the fact that the "Claribel" concert, given under the auspices of Mr. John Boosey, took place the evening after a Philharmonic concert

and the evening before a New Philharmonic concert. The fact cannot be denied; but we do not see its significance. Claribel did not put herself forward as a learned musician, though she possessed better musical instincts than belong to many who claim that character. The artistes to whom, at this interesting concert, the execution of some of Claribel's most admired ballads was entrusted were Madame Sainton-Dolby, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynn, Miss Julia Elton, Mrs. Hale, and Messrs. Montem Smith, George Perren, Chaplin Henry, and Carter. Several part-songs, by Mr. J. L. Hatton, Lord Mornington, Shield, and Bishop, were included in the concert, which was rendered further attractive by M. Vieuxtemps' solo performances on the violin, and those of Signor Luca Fumagalli on the pianoforte. Signor Fumagalli is the brother of the celebrated Milanese pianist of the same name—one of the very few Italian composers of recent times who have written for the pianoforte. He performs his late brother's fantasias with energy, precision, and grace; nor does he confine himself to the fantasia style alone. His special inclination is for classical music, which is every day more seriously cultivated in Italy—especially North Italy. Among the crowd of pianists who flock to London for the season—many of them without succeeding even in gaining a hearing—Signor Fumagalli will, no doubt, conquer for himself an honourable place.

NEW MUSIC.

Messrs. Duff and Stewart have published, among other pieces (1), an effective scene, for the bass voice, called *The Wounded Soldier*, composed by Mr. G. B. Allen; (2), a very beautiful thoroughly melodious song, by Nicola de Giosa, *The Alpine Home* (L'Alpigniani), for which Mr. Wellington Guernsey has supplied appropriate English words; and (3) a rather brilliant and not difficult fantasia, on motives from "Der Freyschütz," by Mr. E. L. Hime.

A STRANGE STORY.

A TRIAL that has just been held before the Correctional Tribunal of Milan has excited strong interest by the dramatic circumstances disclosed, and at the same time gives a strange idea of the degree to which individual liberty may be violated in Italy. A married woman, twenty-five years of age, bearing the rather remarkable name of Caroline of Aragon, and whose husband had abandoned her, became enamoured of an Englishman, named Edmund Howard, who lived in Milan and gave lessons in English. His position in the Lombard capital seems to have been good; but he abandoned it for her sake, and they travelled together, and early in the present year were at Venice. While there her family, which for five years had taken no notice of her, suddenly applied to the Milan police to have her brought back to her father's house. She was arrested, taken to Milan, and placed as a prisoner in her father's hands. As was shown by a note she wrote to Howard, and which was read in court, she was completely deprived of her personal liberty and prevented from going out. Howard thereupon applied to the King's Procurator, who summoned the D'Aragnas (father and daughter) to appear before him at noon on Feb. 11. It was the wedding day of one of her brothers. By signs from her window she contrived to inform Howard that she was going out at noon, and when at that hour she and her father got into a carriage he appeared at the door, touched her on the arm, and asked her where she was going. The details of the tragical scene that ensued are well given in a letter written by her to Howard's advocate, and by him laid before the tribunal. Whatever her frailties, Caroline of Aragon is evidently a clever and courageous woman. Her attachment to Howard, she declares, originated in her appreciation of his remarkable talents and cultivated mind, and was confirmed and strengthened by the many sacrifices he made for her. They had much to struggle with and much to endure, but still they lived happily together until her arrest at Venice. She writes:—"I was cast into prison like a malefactor, without knowing for what reason. In these painful circumstances I had fresh proofs of Howard's attachment in the extraordinary efforts he made for my release. But the order was irrevocable. I was forced to set out the next morning, escorted by a functionary who made me over to the Milan police, who, apparently not knowing what to do with me, sent me from one place to another, and finally to San Vittore, accompanied by two policemen in plain clothes, and thence, on the following day, I was made over to my family. I will not dwell upon the mental anguish occasioned me by such treatment. To this hour I am unable to comprehend by what right and in virtue of what law the police interfered in the affair, since it was not a case of restoring some runaway minor to her family, I being of age and a married woman, and five years absent from my father's house."

She states that she was locked up in a room and allowed to see no one. Unfortunately, Howard misinterpreted the signal made from her window, and instead of understanding that at twelve the next day she was to be taken before the Royal Procurator, he thought she proposed that he should meet her at the house door to take her away from Milan. Staggered at seeing her accompanied by her father, he stood at the carriage window, and, in reply to his inquiry, she told him where she was going to be taken. A horrible scene ensued, which she thus vividly describes:—"The words were hardly spoken when my brother Luigi and his father-in-law fell upon him, seized him furiously by the beard, and dragged him back under the gateway of the house. Then he was assailed by a crowd of bystanders, and a tremendous struggle began. Howard, seeing himself overwhelmed with insults and by the number of his adversaries drew a six-barrelled revolver from his pocket and warned his assailants to stand back or he would fire upon them. Seeing that the warning was fruitless, he fired three or four shots in the air, as I myself saw, with no other object, I am profoundly convinced, than to clear a space around him and so regain me. All this was the work of a moment. As if with a presentiment of what was about to happen, I jumped out of the carriage and hastened to join him; but, alas! too late, for he already lay upon the ground, bathed in his own blood. Stooping over him, and just as he had spoken the words, 'Je meurs pour toi et je t'aime,' a kick given, I cannot say by whom, forced his eye out of the socket and it fell down over his cheek. I remained as one petrified. My hand clasped in his, I swore in my heart to revenge his death, when I was dragged away by main force; and so sudden and violent was the impetus that the poor victim was dragged with me for some distance over the stones. Covered with his blood and almost frantic, I was forced again into the carriage and carried before the Royal Procurator, to whom those fresh blood-stains attested the deplorable fact that had just occurred."

It appears that when Howard fired his revolver in the air, one of the D'Aragnas, either from fright or in trying to get away, slipped and fell. Howard thought he had killed him, and, seized with despair, put his pistol to his head and shot himself. He appeared in court with a black bandage round his head, having lost his right eye. The papers describe him as a man of six-and-thirty, of gentlemanly appearance. When Caroline D'Aragnas came into court to give her evidence he advanced to meet her, and they clasped hands with great emotion. The Tribunal acquitted him of the charge of firing with malicious intent; he was fined 50 francs for carrying the revolver, and immediately released.

NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND FESTIVAL.—The arrangements for the annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which is to take place on Saturday week, at Willis's Rooms, are sufficiently advanced to justify the managing committee in believing that the sixth anniversary will prove at least equally as successful as any of its predecessors. Nearly forty members of the Houses of Peers and Commons have intimated their intention of supporting by their presence Lord Houghton, who takes the chair; and, as on previous occasions, distinguished representatives of art, science, and literature—indeed, of nearly all the professions—express their desire to take part in the proceedings. The musical programme, proverbially excellent at the Press Fund dinner, will be of a most attractive character—Mr. Benedict kindly presiding, and various artists of eminence gracefully volunteering their services.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.
FRIDAY, MAY 21.

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COMMITTEE OF A MINER FOR RECKLESSNESS.—On Wednesday, at the Barnsley Courthouse, a young man named Samuel Turton was brought up on a charge of having the gauze of his lamp full of fire on May 20, at the Oaks Colliery, which was the scene of the terrible explosion in 1866, and which still contains about one half of the bodies lost on that fearful occasion. Mr. John Tyas appeared for the prosecution, the charge being laid under the thirty-third special rule in use at the colliery. George Barker, the overman at the Oaks Colliery, said, On May 20, about ten minutes past six o'clock in the morning, he went into the rise working, where the defendant was employed, and he there found the defendant's lamp full of fire, the gauze being fully two inches in length; it ought only to have been three-quarters of an inch. He pulled it down and called defendant's attention to it, when he said he had never touched it. John Teasdale, the night deputy, was called, and stated that he examined the workings and found no gas, which would account for the gauze not being full of fire, or the consequence would have been fearful. Mr. George Minto, the underground manager, said that the defendant had been guilty of a similar offence on two previous occasions, only about five or six days before. He produced two gauzes which he had suffered to get red hot. The Chairman said the Bench were too well aware of the great danger which such reckless proceedings might have caused, and, as the defendant had received two warnings, they would commit him to the Wakefield House of Correction for two months, with hard labour, without the option of a fine.

CROPPING DOGS' EARS.—At Hammersmith, on Tuesday, James Bye, a labourer, living at North-end, Fulham, was summoned by Mr. Andrews, the chief constable of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for cruelly torturing a little brown terrier dog by cutting its ears. George Hudson surrendered to his bail to answer a charge of causing the cruelty to the dog. Mr. Abrams supported the summons; and Mr. Martin, who conducted the defence, pleaded "Not guilty" to the cruelty. It appeared that on Sunday, the 9th inst., Police-Constable 310 T saw Hudson in Fulham with something under his coat, and on asking him what he had got he said, "Nothing." He opened the prisoner's coat and found the dog underneath, bleeding from the ears, which had been cut. He at first said he had given a shilling to have the dog's ears cut, but afterwards stated that he had cut them. The dog appeared to be suffering great pain and could scarcely stand. Sell, one of the officers of the Royal Humane Society, saw both men, when they admitted that Bye cut the dog's ears while Hudson held it. Mr. Abrams said a custom had long prevailed of cropping dogs' ears, and the Royal Humane Society could only hope to put a stop to it by taking up those cases which were brought under their notice. They did not wish for a heavy penalty, but one which would put a stop to the practice. Mr. George Fleming, of Chatham, veterinary surgeon to the Royal Engineers, was called, and he stated that the operation would be an act of cruelty to the dog and cause it extreme pain. He explained that dogs of that breed had drooping ears which, if cut in the way which was presented by

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